



COMMUNITY REPORT

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Unified Heroes

What's your superpower?

Versión en Español disponible en
línea al kUSD.edu/communityreport

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MISSION

Provide excellent, challenging learning opportunities and experiences that prepare each student for success.

PATHWAY
to SUCCESS



See what we have to offer by joining our family today!

ACADEMICS. OPPORTUNITY. SUCCESS.

KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPEN ENROLLMENT • Feb. 6-April 28, 2017 • kUSD.edu/open-enrollment
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Graduation rate best among large urban districts

Kenosha Unified's 2015 graduating class included 1,427 seniors from eight high schools, including Bradford High School, Kenosha eSchool, Harborside Academy, Hillcrest School, Indian Trail High School and Academy, LakeView Technology Academy, Reuther Central High School and Tremper High School. The 2015 graduation rate was 87.9 percent, which is a continuation of an upward trend in recent years.

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, Kenosha Unified requires students to earn 23.5 credits, complete 10 hours of community service, successfully pass the state required civics exam with a score of 60 percent or higher, and one of the following to graduate:

1. Earn a score of basic or above in three of five subtests on the high school Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam or reach a

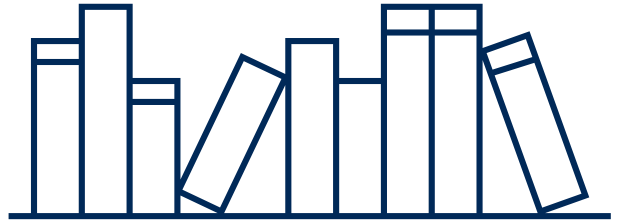
Readiness Level of "Close" or above on three of five subtests for the Grade 10 ACT Aspire or meet the equivalent benchmarks on the ACT Plus Writing

2. Earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.5 on an unweighted scale through the seventh semester of high school (i.e., January of senior year)
3. Meet one of the following test score requirements:
 - a. ACT assessment - 18 or above
 - b. SAT I exam - 870 or above

In addition to an increasing graduation rate, the district continues to see more students graduate with more than the required amount of credits, community service hours and advanced placement courses. This results



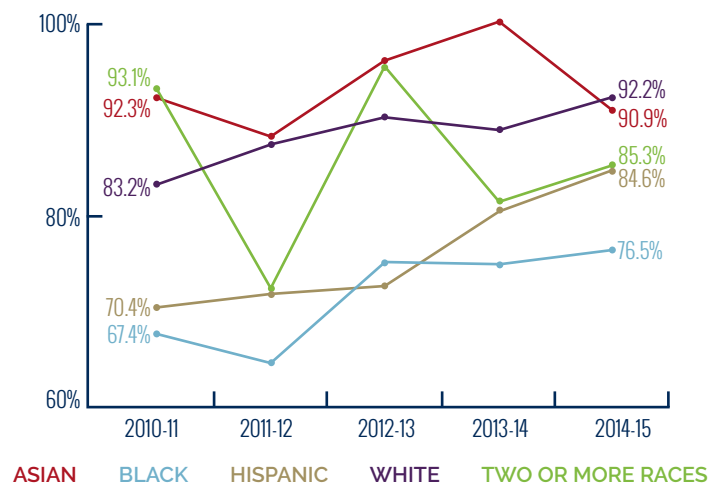
25.8 AVERAGE CREDITS EARNED
23 credits needed to graduate



OVERALL GRADUATION RATE

87.9%

GRADUATION BREAKDOWN



in students entering the workforce or going to college better prepared than ever before.

Earning a degree in Kenosha Unified goes well beyond academics. It's a journey that begins at the age of 4 and continues into young adulthood. Students enter the district with knowledge given to them by their parents, family and friends. They graduate ready to head out into the world thanks to the commitment of Kenosha Unified's staff to provide excellent, challenging learning opportunities and experiences that prepare them for success. Some will continue their educational journey in college, others will write their next chapter as they begin their career after graduation. Regardless of what their next step is, Kenosha Unified will help get them where they want to be.

27.1%
COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTINCTION

Community Service Distinction is earned with 100 or more hours of community service. Ten hours are required to graduate.

Numbers reflect 2014-15 school year as reported by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



SCHOOL SUCCESS BEGINS WITH ATTENDANCE:

**Build the habit of good
attendance early**

DID YOU KNOW?

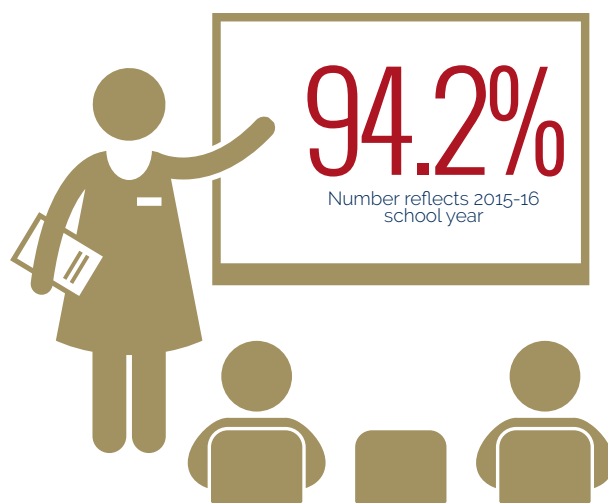
- Good school attendance in early grades helps children do well in high school, college and their career.
- Missing 10 percent or more, or about 18 days each school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Help your child learn, build lasting friendships and develop the skills and attitudes needed to become a valuable member of the community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Set a regular bedtime and create a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Introduce your child to teachers and classmates before school starts to help him/her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Set a standard of daily school attendance.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- If you are facing challenges related to health care, unstable housing, poor transportation or lack of food, please seek support from the school and community agencies.

Attendance rate



When should you call your child in? Visit kUSD.edu/schoolfirst for more info

Recognizing positive behavior

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is an approach for assisting school staff in improving academic and social behavior of all students. PBIS is implemented over a number of years and focuses on the prevention approach and values of positive behavior support rather than reacting to problems after they happen. In 2015, Kenosha Unified implemented PBIS districtwide.

Studies show that effective classroom management and preventive school discipline are essential for supporting teaching and learning. By implementing PBIS, Kenosha Unified is taking a proactive approach to encourage positive behavior. This approach allows individual schools to determine what students know, teach what they don't and acknowledge them for doing what is right.

One example of PBIS in action is the Grant Elementary School PBIS Carnival held twice each year. Stations are set up throughout the building in hallways, classrooms, the playground, restrooms and other areas, where teachers provide lessons on the importance of being safe, respectful and responsible. This provides a visual lesson for students while allowing the teachers to reinforce the importance of positive behavior.



Positive behavior strategies

Each year the Wisconsin Response to Intervention Center selects schools of distinction and merit for their work in implementing PBIS. The following Kenosha Unified schools were recognized at the annual, statewide PBIS conference for their work in implementing PBIS during the 2015-16 year.

PBIS Schools of Distinction:

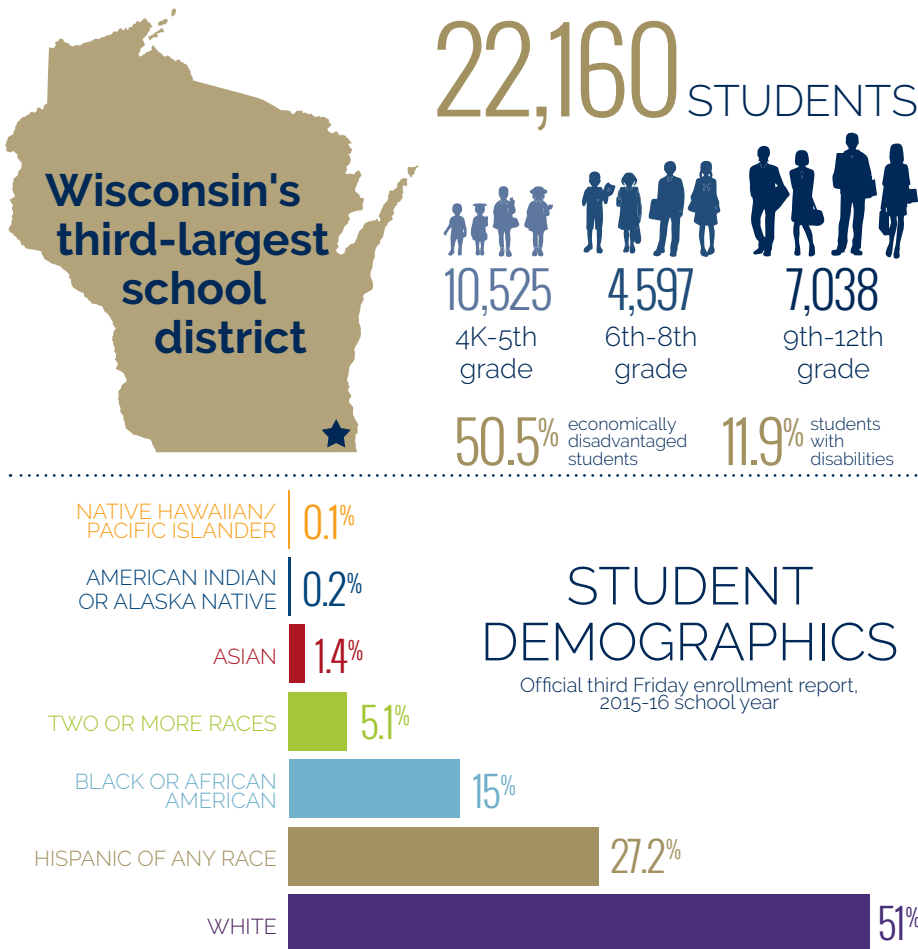
Forest Park Elementary School
Grewenow Elementary School
Indian Trail High School and Academy
Washington Middle School
Whittier Elementary School

PBIS Schools of Merit:

EBSOLA Creative Arts
Grant Elementary School
Hillcrest School
Jefferson Elementary School
Lincoln Middle School
McKinley Elementary School
Reuther Central High School
Somers Elementary School
Tremper High School
Wilson Elementary School

Additional award:

First-place Secondary School Video,
Indian Trail High School and Academy



District composition



- 22** Elementary schools
- 5** Middle schools
- 3** High schools
- 5** Charter schools
- 5** Choice schools
- 1** Specialty school
- 1** Educational Support Center

3,983
EMPLOYEES



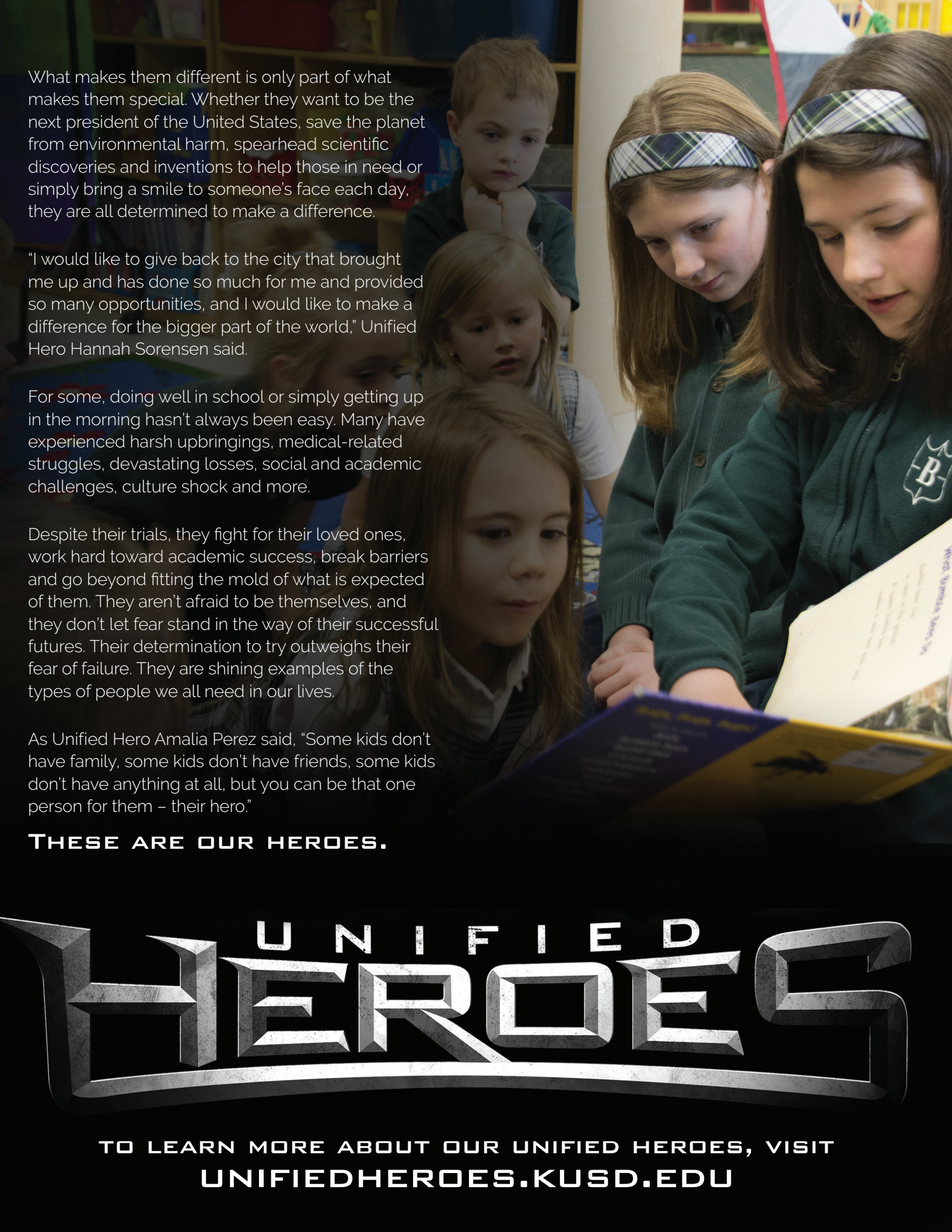
WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER?

Not all heroes look or sound the same. They don't all fight crime or wear capes. Some are simply everyday citizens who have the heart and tenacity to make this world a better place.

Here at Kenosha Unified, we have thousands of heroes, most of whom the world has yet to meet, but we can't wait until they do. The Unified Heroes campaign brings you the stories of 16 students who have huge dreams, have risen above the odds and/or have faced unimaginable challenges.

Some will make you laugh, some will make you cry, but most of all, they will make you feel inspired. Inspired to do more to make this world a better place and to live life to the fullest, because that is all our students want to do. Through big visions and dreams, and with the support of our community, our students won't be just hometown heroes, they will become the world heroes they aspire and deserve to be.



A group of diverse children in a classroom setting. In the foreground, two girls with plaid headbands are looking at a book. Behind them, a boy and another girl are also looking at the book. The background shows a classroom with shelves and other children.

What makes them different is only part of what makes them special. Whether they want to be the next president of the United States, save the planet from environmental harm, spearhead scientific discoveries and inventions to help those in need or simply bring a smile to someone's face each day, they are all determined to make a difference.

"I would like to give back to the city that brought me up and has done so much for me and provided so many opportunities, and I would like to make a difference for the bigger part of the world," Unified Hero Hannah Sorensen said.

For some, doing well in school or simply getting up in the morning hasn't always been easy. Many have experienced harsh upbringings, medical-related struggles, devastating losses, social and academic challenges, culture shock and more.

Despite their trials, they fight for their loved ones, work hard toward academic success, break barriers and go beyond fitting the mold of what is expected of them. They aren't afraid to be themselves, and they don't let fear stand in the way of their successful futures. Their determination to try outweighs their fear of failure. They are shining examples of the types of people we all need in our lives.

As Unified Hero Amalia Perez said, "Some kids don't have family, some kids don't have friends, some kids don't have anything at all, but you can be that one person for them – their hero."

THESE ARE OUR HEROES.

UNIFIED HEROES

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR UNIFIED HEROES, VISIT
UNIFIEDHEROES.KUSD.EDU

Giving back to Kenosha



A life lesson in helping others

We all want to make a difference in the world, and Kenosha Unified students and staff are accomplishing that goal one step at a time.

"Schools do so much more than teach students to read, write and compute," said Che Kearby, Kenosha Unified coordinator of social studies and educator effectiveness. "Showing students how to give back to families and their community can put into motion a lifetime of service that can impact those who receive just as much as those who provide."

From helping their fellow students and families to extending their generosity to worldwide organizations, each school has its own approach to giving back.

"As I travel throughout the district, it never ceases to amaze me how willing our students, teachers and other employees are to participate in any number of service opportunities that will make an immediate impact on the needy families of Kenosha," Kearby said. "It is during these times that I often wonder if this is not the best lesson that we give our students."

According to Indian Trail High School and Academy counselor Art Preuss, by encouraging and giving our students opportunities to volunteer and help those in need, they get to experience the joy of giving to others firsthand.

"Once students experience this phenomenon, they will more likely continue giving to others which is a win-win situation for our students and our community," Preuss said.

Giving is contagious, and Kenosha Unified is consistently working together to give an outstanding amount of time, money and goods to those in need and always looking for ways to do more.

"As a teacher, a burden is lifted off your shoulders when kids show compassion completely unprovoked," said Brad Potts, Pay It Forward Club adviser and fifth-grade teacher at Pleasant Prairie Elementary School. "It shows that these service opportunities are really sticking with them and changing them as people. That's what it's all about."



Top causes supported



\$47,594⁺ for medical causes



\$47,267⁺ for shelters and pantries



\$18,842⁺ for military causes



\$16,638⁺ for Kenosha Unified families



Top recipient

Women and Children's Horizons

\$37,884

(\$33,000 from Lance Middle School's Walk-a-Thon)

Total funds raised

~\$135,000

These numbers reflect only the fundraisers reported to the district by individual schools and organizations during the 2015-16 school year. Others not reported are not included in the totals above.

In addition to the monetary totals listed above, Kenosha Unified students and staff have donated thousands of pounds of food, hundreds of meals, thousands of household items, thousands of clothing items, hundreds of gifts and toys, hundreds of thank-you and holiday cards, hundreds of school supplies and countless volunteer hours toward the causes they support.



Gross total fund expenditures

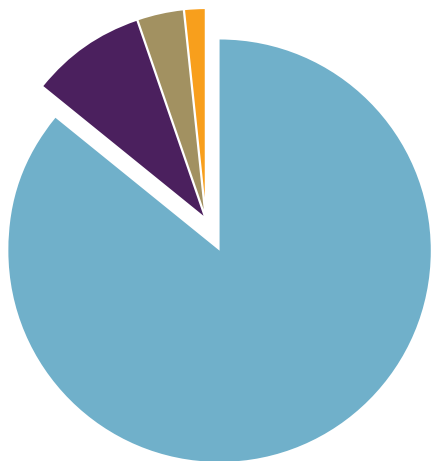
\$343,902,188

Operational fund expenditures

(Funds 10 and 27 without inter-fund transfers)

\$258,392,505

How were operational funds spent?



Salaries and benefits 85.93% or \$222,032,733

Purchased services 8.93% or \$23,074,089

Supplies 3.50% or \$9,053,950

Capital/short-term debt/insurance/other 1.64% or \$4,231,733

Equalized property value

\$8,212,853,321

District comprised of property from:

City of Kenosha 61% or \$5,060,989,192

Village of Pleasant Prairie 30% or \$2,432,039,029

Town and village of Somers 9% or \$719,825,100

Numbers reflect 2015-16 fiscal year

How district finances work

Property owners in the city of Kenosha, village of Pleasant Prairie and the town and village of Somers help fund public education for the students of Kenosha Unified directly through property taxes.

Since 1993, the Wisconsin legislature instituted limits on the amount of revenue public school districts are allowed to receive each year from their two major sources of income - general state aid, also known as equalization aid, and select local tax levies for general operations, capital projects and debt issued without referendum approval.

The limits are administered through a complex revenue limit formula, which has two major variables that essentially determine the size of a district's main budget. The variables are the number of students enrolled in the district and the per-pupil amount allowed for each of those students. District operational budgets either grow or shrink depending on enrollment numbers or the allowable change per pupil that is determined in each two-year state budget adopted by the governor of Wisconsin. Once that limit is calculated, school districts subtract the general state aid they receive and set tax levies for the remaining amount.

Any school districts wishing to exceed the limits instituted by the legislature are required to seek the permission of their community through a vote known as a referendum.

AA3
MOODY RATING

A Moody's rating of AA3 means that Kenosha Unified's debt obligations are considered to be of high-quality and subject to very low credit risk. This is an indicator that the district is a good steward of public tax dollars.

Music program among best in nation



Kenosha Unified was one of 476 districts nationwide honored with the 2016 Best Communities for Music Education designation from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Districts recognized by the NAMM Foundation are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs.

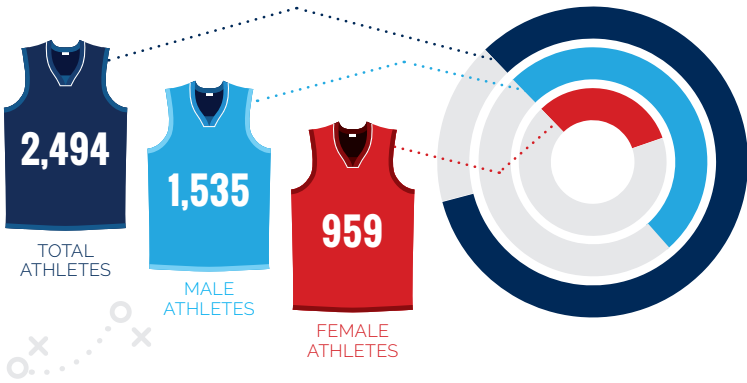
The Kenosha community has long appreciated the many musical opportunities afforded to the students of Kenosha Unified. This designation spotlights the district's dedication to providing a strong music program that positively impacts the development of students in other academic areas.

Having such a robust program makes our schools and community more appealing to potential residents. Kenosha Unified appreciates the continued support of its many wonderful fine arts programs!



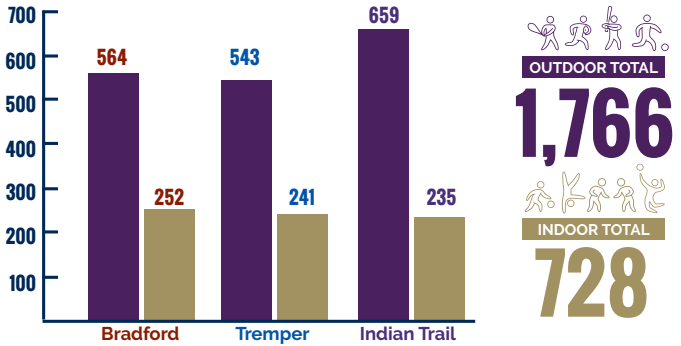
Fine arts
recognition

High school athletic breakdown

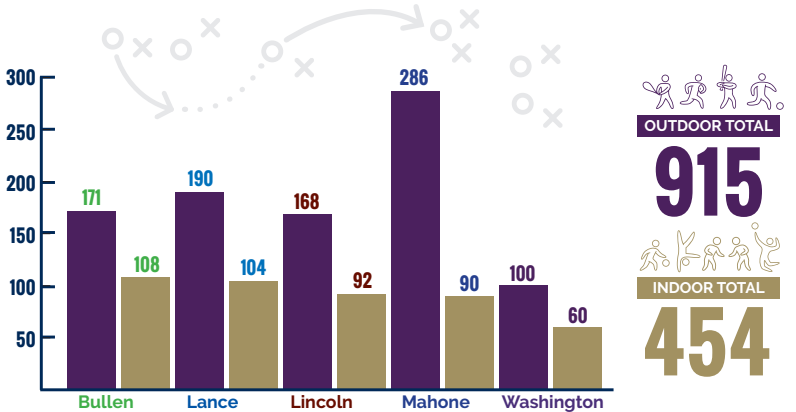
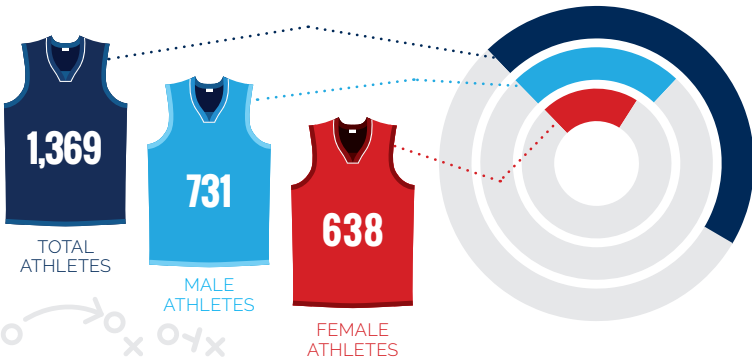




Athletics
overview



Middle school athletic breakdown



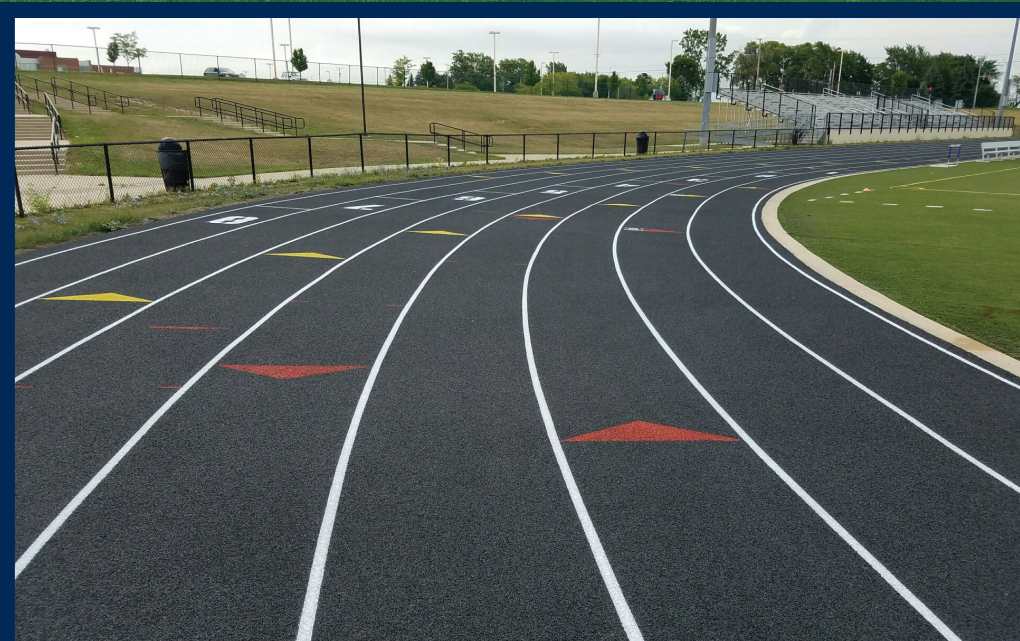
A few Kenosha Unified elementary schools partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha to provide after-school sports.
For more information, please call the Recreation Department at 262-359-6225.

2016 athletic
referendum



Thank you,
Kenosha!







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182,400+ video views



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2016 page views



CHANNEL 20

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