



# COMMUNITY REPORT



## The power of learning

KUSD academics in action





# What's inside

Literacy lessons foster lasting love of learning.....	<b>2</b>
Interactive engineering sparks problem solving discoveries .....	<b>5</b>
Going back in time for memorable lessons .....	<b>6</b>
Revolutionary skills for lifelong success.....	<b>8</b>
Energy savings update .....	<b>9</b>
Connecting communities through culture.....	<b>12</b>
Unified Heroes .....	<b>13</b>
Inspiring students to own personal health.....	<b>14</b>
A magical, madrigal tradition.....	<b>16</b>
4K sets the stage for social, emotional, academic success .....	<b>17</b>
Summer opportunities cultivate learning.....	<b>19</b>
Collaborative hands-on math strengthens comprehension.....	<b>20</b>
Finance update .....	<b>21</b>

**Versión en español disponible en línea al  
[kUSD.edu/communityreport](http://kUSD.edu/communityreport)**



# ACADEMICS. OPPORTUNITY. SUCCESS.

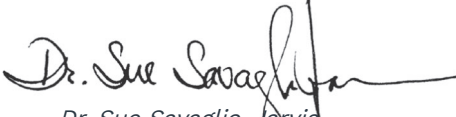
During the 2017-18 school year, Kenosha Unified School District continued to see areas of growth to make our community proud. As our list of successes continues to grow, we also take the time to focus on areas of need to ensure that we are providing the excellent, challenging learning experiences our families have come to expect.

The content shared in this year's community report is a direct reflection of the dedication of our staff at all levels who work hard to ensure our students are achieving success as they work toward graduating college- and career-ready. Our district continues to research innovative

learning strategies to align with the changing world around us, and our staff has done a phenomenal job implementing these updated approaches for the benefit of our students.

We encourage you to read about the programs, projects and wonderful learning opportunities shared within this report. We could not do what we do for our students without the support of our stakeholders, and for that we are forever grateful. Whether you have given your time, talents or support to our students, staff and families, you have helped make a difference in the lives of many in our community.

Kenosha Unified's vision is to be Wisconsin's top-performing urban school district that is highly regarded for continuously exceeding all expectations, and we are confident that we are well on our way to achieving this goal thanks to the continued support of our amazing community. Thank you.

  
Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis  
Superintendent of Schools

  
Dan Wade  
School Board President



#### School Board:

**Dan Wade** President • **Tony Garcia** Vice president • **Todd Battle** Clerk • **Gary Kunich** Treasurer  
**Tom Duncan** Member • **Mary Modder** Member • **Rebecca Stevens** Member

#### Superintendent:

**Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis**



# Literacy lessons foster



## Bookstore builds bonds with literacy

Kenosha Unified understands the power of literacy and the effects it can have on a student's future. At Frank Elementary School, simply learning how to read is only the beginning. The Frank School Bookstore initiative strives to get books into the homes of every student.

After collecting used books through garage sales and donations, the bookstore opened at the start of the 2016-17 school year. Each week, all staff members are given two tickets, which they distribute to students to redeem for a free book at the bookstore.

Students are allowed to purchase up to two books weekly

for 50 cents each. Each student making a purchase also is allowed to take an extra book off of the "free" bookshelf.

Frank student Deneen C. loves that she can always find something new at the store each time she visits.

"There are lots of interesting books at the bookstore that make you learn a lot of things," Deneen said. "Some have problems you can solve, and I like those books the best."

Frank students and best friends Rickiah W. and America G. like to visit the bookstore together and said reading also helps

them improve their writing skills and vocabulary.

"Even if books have really hard words in them, it's good to read them because you learn from your

mistakes," Rickiah said. "I'm going to be a doctor someday, so I need to be able to know a lot of words."

The bookstore is currently open every Tuesday morning, and data is collected to track who is visiting the store. Volunteers also help organize books by genres, assist students in finding age-appropriate books, run book drives and help pick up community donations.

Students also volunteer at the store each week as cashiers, bookstore attendants and restockers. About 150 books are going into the homes of Frank families each week, but a lot of effort goes into garnering donations.

"It's a huge team effort," Frank instructional coach and bookstore coordinator Louann Daniels said. "It takes a lot of people who care about this cause and about these kids to make this work."

All of the money earned goes toward purchasing additional books. Any books Frank is unable to use for their bookstore are passed along to other local programs in need.

**"I'm going to be a doctor someday, so I need to be able to know a lot of words."**

***Rickiah W.***  
*Frank student*

***Interested in donating to the Frank School Bookstore?***

Drop off books or monetary donations at Frank Elementary School, 1816 57th St., or contact Louann Daniels at [ldaniels@kUSD.edu](mailto:ldaniels@kUSD.edu).



# lasting love of learning

## Today's libraries inspire creativity and spark a passion for reading

Robots, computer coding, crafts, games and activities. These are only a few of the opportunities that accompany books in today's school libraries to support both offline and online student literacy and creativity.

Many elementary libraries explore the innovative tools available to students by incorporating kindergarten through fifth-grade event days, including makerspaces, content activities and literature connections. Event days also involve several stations for students to visit to explore various activities.

"Our library event days are important because they foster a love of reading, creativity and exploration," Somers Elementary School library media specialist Deidre Olson said. "They also help build our school's sense of community.

Students and staff are able to connect and celebrate reading and creativity in a casual, fun and safe environment."

Event days typically have a literature theme as well, such as Hour of Code, Dot Day, or a comic book and graphic novel day.

"Students of all ages seem to love reading days – even our 'big students,' the staff," Olson said. "Kids get very excited when they hear we are having one or attend them. I often hear students say, 'this was the best day ever,' and I get a



lot of hugs, smiles and thank-yous on these days."

Maker Day at Stocker Elementary School also provides students with a chance to take advantage of all of the activities and opportunities available in the library.

**"My favorite part of Maker Day is getting to be as creative as we want to be."**

*Trinity M.  
Stocker student*

"My favorite part of Maker Day is getting to be as creative as we want to be," Stocker student Trinity M. said.

Library makerspaces include engaging, hands-on activities that encourage students to work together to ask questions and find solutions while challenging their existing knowledge to create something new.

"These are things we always have in the library but don't necessarily get to play with every day, so Maker Day gives us a fun opportunity to explore them," Stocker library media specialist Denise Nalker said.

The daylong event provides approximately 15 different stations, which are personalized for each grade group. Some activities are meant to challenge and grow creative student talents while others involve practice with content



standards using technology tools, or through independent or teamwork problem-solving.

"It's like a free choice day for us, and I love all of the options because there's so much fun stuff to do," Stocker student Tori H. said.

***To learn more, go to [kUSD.edu/library](https://kUSD.edu/library)***



# WORK WITH US We're hiring

- Certified school staff  
(e.g., counselors, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, social workers, speech therapists and teachers)
- Cafeteria staff
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- Substitutes
- Administrative support professionals
- Administrators
- Business staff  
(e.g., finance, information systems, communications, human resources)

To explore careers, visit **[kUSD.edu/employment](https://kUSD.edu/employment)**



## KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019 Registration Dates

HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE/CHARTER  
**Jan. 1-19**

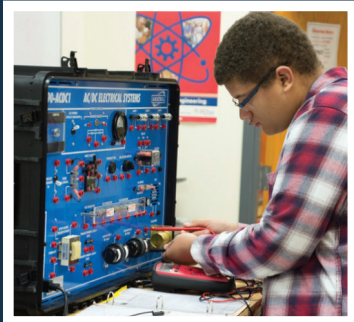
ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CHOICE/CHARTER  
**Jan. 1-31**

OPEN ENROLLMENT

For students residing outside of Kenosha, Somers and Pleasant Prairie; space is limited

**Feb. 5-April 30**

4K-12 REGISTRATION  
**Online registration opens Feb. 19**



Learn more at **[kUSD.edu/registration](https://kUSD.edu/registration)**



# Interactive engineering sparks problem solving discoveries

Along with their standard science curriculum, Kenosha Unified students are now learning science concepts in the context of engineering projects.

In hands-on elementary units, students learn about pushes and pulls through designing a pinball machine, light and sound through puppet theater engineering, properties of materials through designing glue, environments and survival through snails, robots and biomimicry, energy conversions through studying a blackout in a fictional town, and earth systems by investigating water shortages.

"This generation of students seem to absorb and regurgitate more information through hands-on exploration," Somers Elementary School teacher Lisa Dresen said.

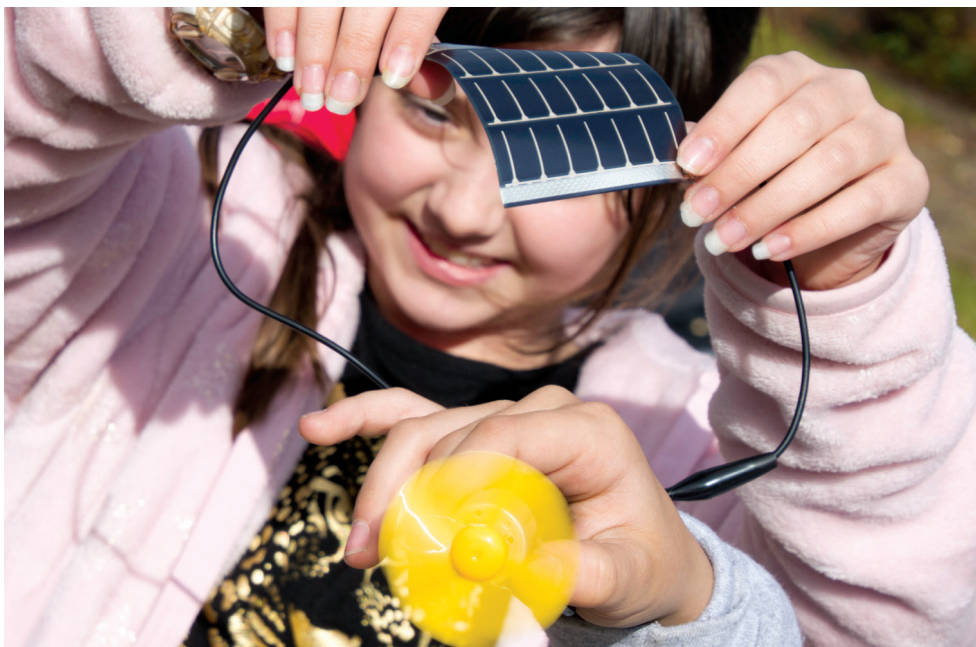
Somers student Makayla L. said science is more fun when it's hands-on, and it offers opportunities beyond the classroom, too.

"I like to discover new things and think of other ways to use the tools, too," she said. "It also makes me think about how all sorts of things work that we use every day."

At the middle and high school levels, students also study the engineering design process, the impact of human activity on biodiversity and ecosystems, earth science and more.

This year, Lance Middle School eighth-graders studied energy and motion through designing a toy that demonstrates energy transfer.

Lance science teacher Kristie



Heuser said anytime her students are engineering, they are challenged in a new way.

"At the start, we failed quite a few times, but it made us think a little more each time, think differently than we did before and

try harder to make it work," Lance student Nadia Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez's group built a magnetic levitation device as their toy, which displayed magnetic potential energy, kinetic energy and gravitational potential energy, she said.

"It feels really good to have something that works in the end," Lance student Murphy Dever Koleno said.

Prairie Lane Elementary School teacher Amie Miller reminds her engineers that some of their designs may fail, but that's OK. In fact, that's what students like Tara C. like best – the challenge of



experimenting and rebuilding.

"I like deciding different designs, and if one doesn't work, I just come up with another one and another one and try to think of simpler ways to make everything work together," student Nadir C. said.

**"It feels really good to have something that works in the end."**

**Murphy Dever Koleno**  
*Lance student*

***To learn more, go to [kUSD.edu/science](http://kUSD.edu/science)***





# Going back in time for memorable lessons

First-graders at Harvey Elementary School take pride in learning classroom concepts through field experiences. During the fall, students get the chance to make Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum their classroom setting for the day during a Cornucopia of Fall field trip, just one of the many ways they learn social studies from the world around them.

"The kids loved spending the sunny and warm fall day immersed in nature," Harvey teacher Olivia Turner said. "This field trip is a great learning experience for the students that aligns with one of our social studies focuses."

Cornucopia of Fall is a program that teaches the life stages of plants and Native American traditions through a hike on an old Native American trail. Students also made discoveries about seed dispersal strategies and the concept that fruit is a seed container. They also learned to classify seeds collected from the forest and prairie.

"I learned that there are seeds all around you; there were so many

kinds!" Harvey student Braelynn B. said.

Students also visited Native American teepees and wigwams and learned about traditions and celebrations of the fall season while experiencing hands-on learning experiences such as cider-making using a traditional apple press and constructing a traditional folklore toy to bring home.

"I liked making my (cornhusk) doll because when I get home, I can add more to it, like clothes and a face. I can use it to play with my other dolls, too," Harvey student Tessa H. said.

The program aligns with Harvey's studies of cultures and traditions, which is a focus of their first-quarter social

studies curriculum. It also gives the students the opportunity to observe real-life visuals in order to make better connections with the concepts they learn at school.

"The Hawthorn Hollow staff is great at exposing the students to Native American culture and traditions through various activities to give them things they can compare to the way they live their lives today," Turner said.

**"I learned that there are seeds all around you; there were so many kinds!"**

**Braelynn B.**  
Harvey student



**To learn more, go to  
[kUSD.edu/socialstudies](https://kUSD.edu/socialstudies)**





# WISCONSIN'S THIRD-LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

City of Kenosha • Village of Pleasant Prairie • Village and Town of Somers

**22**

ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS

**5**

MIDDLE  
SCHOOLS

**3**

HIGH  
SCHOOLS

**5**

CHARTER  
SCHOOLS

**5**

CHOICE  
SCHOOLS

**1**

SPECIALTY  
SCHOOL

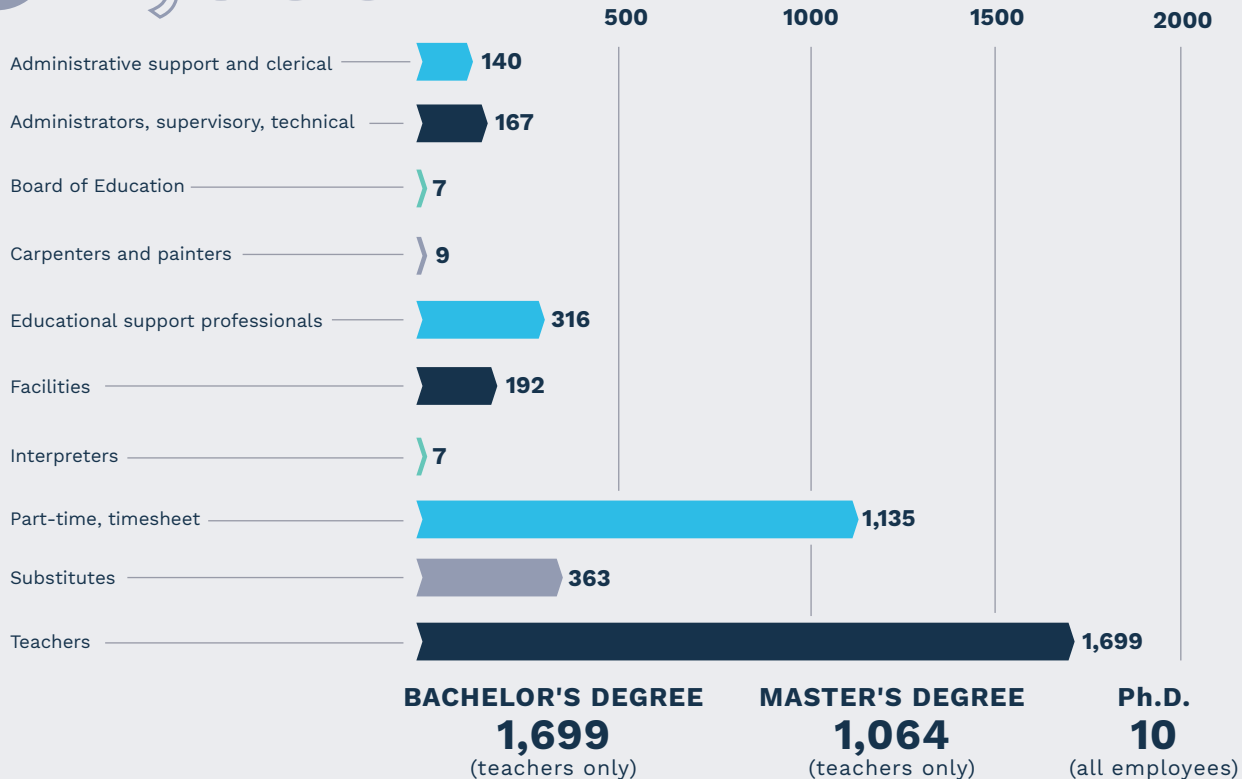
**1**

EDUCATIONAL  
SUPPORT CENTER



**4,035**

TOTAL EMPLOYEES



WHITE (10,611: 49.0%)  
HISPANIC OF ANY RACE (6,209: 28.7%)  
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN (3,150: 14.6%)  
TWO OR MORE RACES (1,288: 6.0%)  
ASIAN (319: 1.5%)  
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE (42: 0.2%)  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER (17: 0.1%)

Total may not equal 100.0% due to decimal rounding.

**21,372**

TOTAL  
STUDENTS

Student total  
(based on 2017-18 DPI WISEDash)

**51.9%**

ECONOMICALLY  
DISADVANTAGED

**12.6%**

STUDENTS WITH  
DISABILITIES

**10,190**

4K-5TH GRADE

**4,503**

6TH-8TH GRADE

**6,679**

9TH-12TH GRADE

DISTRICT COMPOSITION





# Revolutionary skills for lifelong success

The advent of the fourth industrial revolution, commonly referred to as Industry 4.0, creates exciting opportunities for students entering a variety of career pathways, including advanced manufacturing, information technology, industrial design, robotics, industrial maintenance, machining, tool and die, and much more.

As Industry 4.0 emerges, the skills required by individuals employed in the industrial sector will change significantly. More than ever before, industrial equipment will be electronically monitored, controlled, interconnected and networked, creating massive amounts of data to be used in analysis, process control and improvement.

Success in the industrial sector will now require the comprehension of multiple industrial operations, smart sensors and smart devices used to monitor and control production operations, industrial automation, control systems, networking, network security, data analytics, and mobile and internet

data communication.

In order to prepare today's students to work for local companies, Kenosha Unified added two new courses for high school students focused on mechatronics and industrial control systems. In Introduction to Mechatronics, students will understand how industry utilizes mechatronics in advanced manufacturing. The Industrial Control Systems course introduces the basic concepts of industrial computer-controlled systems. Students also will explore various types of programming using robots and programmable logic controllers (PLCs).

"It is important to offer classes such as this for students to get hands-on learning," Tremper technology education teacher Charlene Smith said. "The skills are real life job skills."

For Indian Trail High School and Academy student, SkillsUSA president and Welding Club president Ben Riemer, being a part of his school's first welding class, SkillsUSA and certification opportunities has been influential,

and he feels like he's grown along with the programs.

"I want future students to be able to keep the program going and help it grow even more than it has so far," Riemer said. "It's amazing to be able to get certified through school, and I know it's going to help me a tremendous amount in my future."

As a newer educator to KUSD, Indian Trail technology education teacher Thom Stapleman has been amazed by the talent and effort he sees in career technical education (CTE) leaders and teachers throughout the district.

"From top down, this is a special group of people here in Kenosha working hard to build up programs and train a variety of students," Stapleman said. "I'm very thankful to be a part of it and excited to see how CTE will grow within all our schools helping to prepare students for their futures."

***Businesses and students:  
to learn more, go to  
[kUSD.edu/cte](http://kUSD.edu/cte)***







# Energy savings update: Tremper High School

In 2018, the first of three rounds of a \$26.9 million energy efficiency construction project began at Tremper High School. The project will substantially reduce the school's energy consumption and add air conditioning.

The first year was the largest scope of the project, which included remodeling one-third of the building and installing the new central heating and cooling plant with new boilers and chillers, pumps and tanks, an emergency

electrical generator and electrical distribution panels.

The 2018 classroom renovations focused on the east side of the two-story, north wing of the school, including the science rooms, library media center, main office, art rooms and some general classrooms.

This work included new heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, HVAC control system, plumbing in student restrooms, LED lighting

and windows.

The first of two small additions included a secure main entrance on the east side of the school, which consists of an attendance office, school resource (police) officer office, and systems to manage entrance into the school in a safe way. The second was a new event entrance vestibule on the west side of the school near the gymnasium and auditorium that was constructed primarily for energy savings purposes.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## Future energy projects

The second phase of the Tremper project will resume in 2019 with a focus on the following:

- Renovations to west side of the two-story classroom (north) wing of the school
- New Family and Consumer Education classroom and culinary kitchen classroom to replace the one FCE room original to the school



Bradford High School's four-year energy savings project also is slated to begin in 2019 with the following work:

- Construction of a new central heating and cooling plant
- Renovations on northeast quadrant of the school with a complete remodel of the commons area
- Two new additions:
  - New, secure main entrance on the west side of the school
  - Vestibule to the staff entrance on the east side of the school





Providing excellent,  
challenging learning  
opportunities



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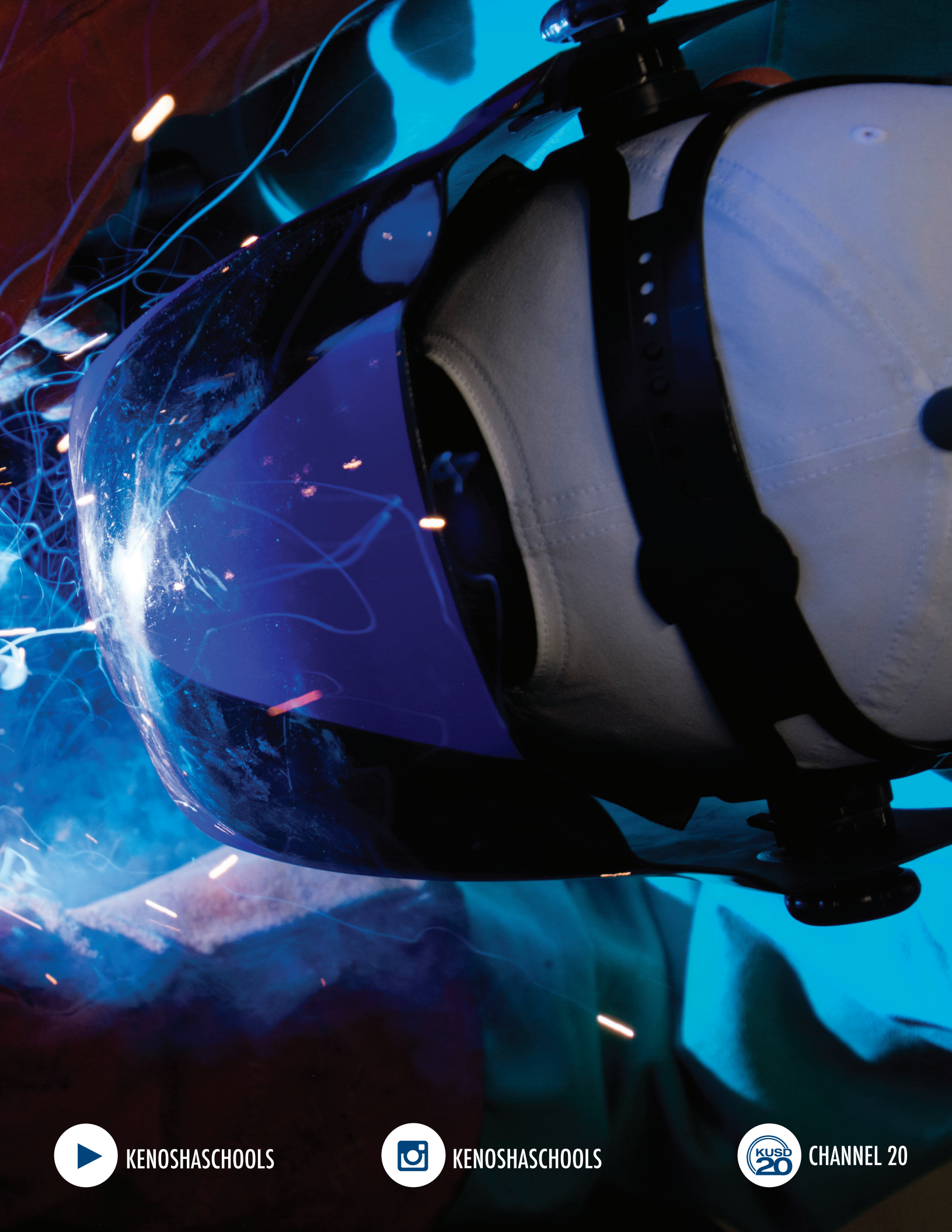


KUSD



KENOSHASCHOOLS





KENOSHASCHOOLS



KENOSHASCHOOLS



CHANNEL 20





# Connecting communities through culture

Celebrating cultures and connecting communities. That is the focus of the Spanish for Spanish Speakers classes in Kenosha Unified.

The recently redesigned program encourages students to be proud of their heritage while aligning their lessons with core curriculum, such as math, English, science and social studies.

“It’s important for my students to feel connected and proud of not only their heritage, but of Bradford, of KUSD and of their community,” Bradford advanced placement Spanish teacher Lee Belanger-Gonzales said.

Bradford classes pitched an idea for a Día de los Muertos exhibit at the Kenosha Public Museum, which was created and administered by Bradford Spanish students. The museum embraced the efforts and created a daylong special celebration event around the theme and kept one as a temporary exhibit in the museum through the fall season.

El Día de los Muertos is a fall

holiday tradition that originated in Mexico and to this day is celebrated in many countries throughout Latin America. The tradition celebrates and honors loved ones who have departed. Families prepare foods, create crafts, and decorate colorful altars, or ofrendas, as part of the festivities.

Level one Spanish for Spanish Speakers classes created three different ofrendas – Aztec, Christian and modern – and interactive activities for the event, while level two students created an interactive identity mural.

“Not a lot of people celebrate Day of the Dead, so it’s nice, because they get to see our culture and learn more about it,” Bradford student Zanella Valles said.

Bradford student Eduardo Maldonado helped present the modern ofrenda and shared its history, origins and symbolism. For

example, flowers on an ofrenda represent life and a trail while candles represent light. Other items, such as favorite foods, are also used to honor the deceased.

“This has been a really fun, creative experience,” Maldonado said. “It’s fun to learn about and it’s exciting to share our culture with everyone.”

Belanger-Gonzales said the event was not only an opportunity to teach the public more about Día de los Muertos, but also a chance to encourage her students to be proud of where they come from and what they can offer their community.

“I know it’s engaging them in their education,” she said. “They’re seeing the connections this class makes to the rest of their classes and how these experiences are exposing them to others in the community and ultimately preparing them for their future.”

“It’s exciting to share our culture with everyone.”

**Eduardo Maldonado**  
Bradford student

*To learn more, go to [kUSD.edu/lap](https://kUSD.edu/lap)*





# UNIFIED HEROES

Be yourself, stay strong and spread kindness everywhere, every day. These are common themes in the lives of this year's Unified Heroes. Three incredible young ladies with three different backgrounds and courageous stories to tell.

Vernon Elementary School student Amelia Marien's attitude and ability to persevere through adversity is just the beginning of what makes her a hero. Amelia has cerebral palsy, but it doesn't stop her from experiencing everything life has to offer.

Amelia's strength, fearlessness and determination keep her from giving up. Despite some physical limitations, she does not let her disability define her. She defies the odds against her, and her beautiful spirit shines through all she does

and brightens the lives to those around her.

Washington Middle School student Timberlyn Gardner also faces health challenges, but most would never know what she's going through. She was diagnosed with diabetes at age 4, but by age 5, she overcame her fears to learn to check her own blood sugar levels and administer her own insulin shots.

She is courageous and humble, and shares her smile and positive outlook on life with everyone she comes in contact with, because despite her own daily struggles, she wants to make sure no one ever feels alone.

Indian Trail High School and Academy student Alex Perez can pass as a typical high school student, until her deeds take hold. She has a gift of noticing those who

often go unnoticed and her kind heart and warm spirit shines light on the lives of those who need it most.

As a communications student, she uses the tools and skills she's learned to improve the culture around her, and creates segments and announcements to administer change, encourage people to love who they are and uncover what makes them special.

The character and integrity of all three of these heroes is exactly what our world needs today. There's no doubt that each of these young ladies have already made a difference, and we know they will continue to change the world. While only three extraordinary stories will be introduced this year, Kenosha Unified is filled with students who inspire us every day.

Meet our Unified Heroes at [kUSD.edu/unifiedheroes](http://kUSD.edu/unifiedheroes)





# Inspiring students to

## Training happy, healthy minds

Kenosha Unified is piloting the implementation of mindfulness practices within the school day at a variety of schools across the district.

Mindfulness is simply the act of being aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the here and now. Mindfulness practices in schools often include breathing deeply, becoming aware of one's breath, attending to the body at rest and noticing thoughts as they pass through the mind.

For many students, practices such as mindful breathing helps to reduce stress and anxiety while increasing attention and emotional regulation.

"It's really nice to have during the school day, because if you're having a tough day or you're nervous about a test or anything, it calms you down and relieves all your stress," Bullen Middle School student Savannah Moran said.

When used as a part of a student's school day, mindfulness has improved social relationships, further developed empathy and compassion in students, and increased learning readiness.

"It makes me feel relaxed and helps me not think about the things I'm worried about," Bullen student Kathryn Schantz said.

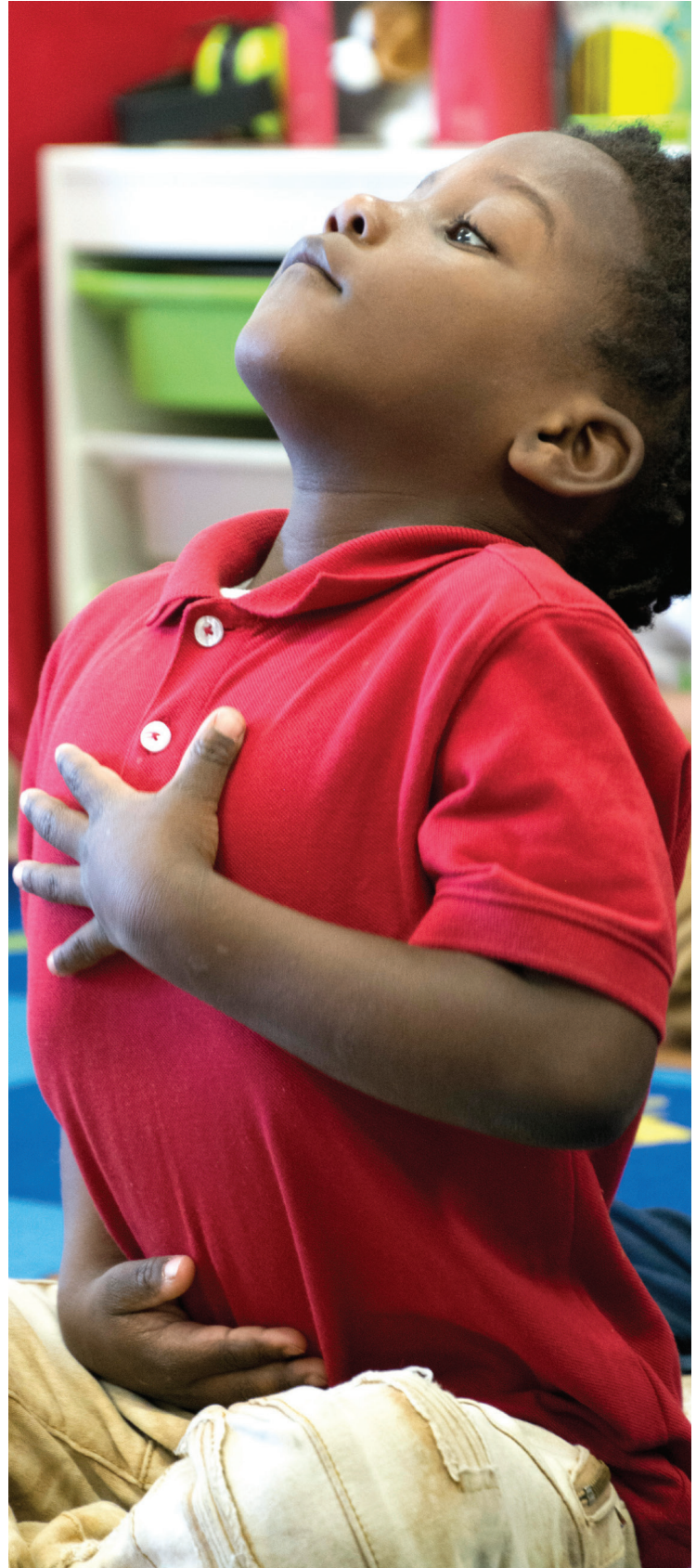
The program is currently piloted with Bradford High School's Freshman Academy, Bullen sixth-graders and schoolwide at Frank Elementary School. Classes typically practice mindfulness exercises for three to five minutes, once or twice each day.

Bullen sixth-grade geography teacher Emily Coroneos has seen significant improvements overall in her students' behavior since implementing mindful practices in her classroom.

"It has given them a center to become more aware of their body's response to different emotions," Coroneos said. "Many times, we are guilty of telling kids to 'take a deep breath' when they are upset, which tends to worsen the problem. By practicing the mindful breathing, students now have a tool they can utilize when they become agitated."

For Frank Elementary School students, the implementation of mindfulness during the school day helps them take care of three things they come to school with every day – their brain, heart and smile. They also learn about the different parts of their brain and how to take care of them.

"I like taking deep breaths, because it helps me be calm and make smart choices," Frank student Mila T.



***To learn more, go to [kUSD.edu/studentsupport](https://kUSD.edu/studentsupport)***



# own personal health

## Personal fitness classes inspire healthy lifestyles

Kenosha Unified offers personal fitness classes that introduce students to fitness planning while providing them the opportunity to experience fitness development that caters to their individual interests.

The classes center around the overall strength and conditioning of each student and expose them to healthy, lifelong fitness activities that they can take with them to encourage an active lifestyle as they move on from high school.

"You always have someone to help you, whether it's to spot you or to motivate you, this class really helps us achieve the goals we set," Indian Trail High School and Academy student

Bethany Wilson said. "It pushes you to the max and makes you want to live a healthier life."

Students are encouraged to

explore and implement individual interests into a personal fitness plan that works toward their goals.

"You really work on yourself," Indian Trail student Luz Diaz said. "I've noticed a big difference in my body since being involved in this, and I feel like I understand how to improve even further."

Diaz and Wilson also are motivated by classmates and teacher Paul Kresse, who is often giving students high-fives and

sharing encouraging words throughout the class.

"We take value in what we do here," Kresse said. "It's important to make sure they know someone cares about them and wants to see them improve, work hard and succeed."

The class predominantly takes place in each school's weight room, however, there are opportunities and activities that students are exposed

to outside of the weight room, too. Additionally, students are required to set individual goals and are tested to monitor their

improvements.

"I love seeing the results," Bradford student Moises Rodriguez said. "After working out for a while, you progressively see changes. It makes me feel good."

Bradford student Monet Riley enjoys the independent structure of the class.

"Knowing that it's built into my school day to get physical activity every day helps keep me motivated," Riley said.

Bradford student Theron Randolph said physical fitness isn't something he does at home, so he relies on the class for exercise and enjoys wrapping up his school day with a good workout.

"It gives me a reason to push myself and gets me to work hard everyday," he said.

Bradford teacher Brandon Menor said most of his students don't have access to fitness equipment without a gym membership, so the class gives them a free way to exercise daily and get them on the right track.

"It not only helps them physically, but it puts them in a better mental state, too," he said. "It gets their adrenaline running, it gives them more self esteem, and it gives them goals to accomplish every single day."

**"It's important to make sure they know someone cares about them and wants to see them improve, work hard and succeed."**

**Paul Kresse**  
*Indian Trail teacher*



*To learn more, go to [kUSD.edu/pe](https://kUSD.edu/pe)*



# A magical, madrigal tradition

Ye Olde English Christmasse Feaste is a tradition that has brought holiday cheer, beautiful music, hilarious entertainment and a delicious seven-course meal to the community in the form of a historical, yet “comfortably authentic” gathering for more than 44 years.

It isn’t specific to any individual time period of English history, music, drama or art. Instead, it combines many pieces of history, cultures and traditions in one celebration.

“Part of what makes this event special are the things everyone expects to happen, but the other part is the new things we bring to it each year,” Tremper High School choral music director and Feaste co-adviser Polly Amborn said. “It’s always something unique. It’s always something special. It’s a beautiful balance of the old and the new.”

Traditionally a Tremper event, Bradford High School choir joined the festivities in 1994 and Indian Trail High School and Academy choir joined in 2011. Now, the cast of 300 performers share their talents together. The relationships and camaraderie that evolves among the students, staff and volunteers creates a family-like atmosphere and sense of community.

“It’s very satisfying to do something cool like this with people you love,” Tremper student Connor Feivor said. “It’s also something people can bring their families to and is something their kids will remember forever.”

To bring the event to life, the Tremper commons are transformed into a 16th-century banquet hall, and the Feaste is coordinated with precise timing and service of meal courses, served hot and accompanied by appropriate fanfares. At each performance, an honorary Lorde and Ladye are invited to be guests of the Feaste, presiding over festivities. Over the years, these dignitaries have included government officials, school board members, community leaders and more. Additionally, the host for the evening is Lorde High Chamberlaine, previously the late Jack Bussard and Terry Lawler and, presently, Brian Lynch.

There are countless hours devoted to this event each year by community volunteers, parents, alumni and students, who make the Feaste a thousands of loyal patrons.

“This is a tradition that is so important to the hundreds - maybe even thousands - of people who have been a part of it,” Amborn said. “For some, this is the start of their holiday season.”



***For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation to the Feaste, go to [feaste.org](http://feaste.org)***





# 4K sets the stage for social, emotional, academic success

Research shows that the greatest learning happens when students are engaged in activities they love, which is why that is the foundation for Kenosha Unified's 4K program.

Participation in 4K helps build a child's knowledge and positively impacts their development through purposeful, play-based learning while giving them a head start on adapting to a school environment.

"4K is important, because it exposes children to the world around them," Brass Community School and Growing Green Child Development Center 4K teacher Mandy Fischer said. "Our 4K program is designed with rich language, wonderful sensory activities and hands-on opportunities for learning and provides the social/emotional tools that students need to be successful in all areas of life. Most importantly, 4K sets the foundation that learning is fun!"

4K's developmentally appropriate instruction also teaches academic and social/emotional skills essential for 3- and 4-year-olds and embraces learning through play,

because research shows children at this age learn more and faster when they can learn through interest and physical activity.

Since learning occurs through student exploration and experimentation, the teacher's role is to facilitate learning and personalize it for each child's interest. Center activities provide opportunities for children to dig deeply into content, and daily opportunities, such as reading stories, engaging in music and movement, playing outside and interacting with other children are provided to encourage development of the whole child.

"It sets the stage for the rest of their education," Brass Community School 4K teacher Lola Spagnoli said. "Our students will leave our 4K classrooms with the skills needed to be successful for the rest of their lives, both in school and out in the real world."

Family engagement also is encouraged in all early education classrooms as the program strives to build a strong academic foundation for students and their

families so they may achieve great success as they progress through school.

Early education teaches reading, writing, science and math through playful activities designed by the teacher.

"We love being their initial exposure to school and giving them a positive, fun, safe and nurturing environment to explore so that they will continue enjoying coming to school each day," Brass Community School 4K teacher Nancy Horejsch said.



**For more information about early education programs, go to [kUSD.edu/earlyeducation](http://kUSD.edu/earlyeducation)**

**4K is offered to children who are 4 years old by Sept. 1.**





# PATHWAY TO SUCCESS



## FINE ARTS



**1,950**

Total band  
participants  
(5th-12th grade)

**1,644**

Total choir  
participants  
(6th-12th grade)

**1,420**

Total orchestra  
participants  
(4th-12th grade)

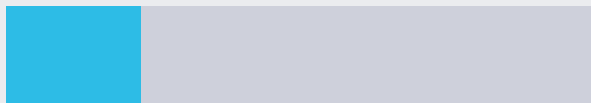


## ATHLETICS

4,503 TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

**1,324**

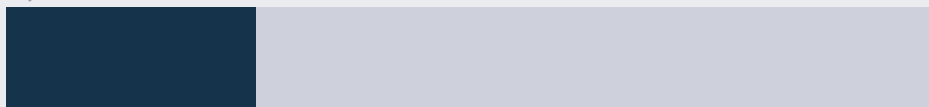
middle school athletes



6,679 TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**2,455**

high school athletes



## ACADEMICS

**93.1%**

2017-18 districtwide  
attendance rate

**26.1**

Average credits earned  
(23.5 credits needed to graduate)

**32.0%**

of graduates earn community  
distinction diplomas

### Grade 11 ACT scores

students who scored  
advanced/proficient in 2017-18:

**English Language Arts - 31.0%**

**Mathematics - 22.6%**

**Science - 23.0%**

**1,459**

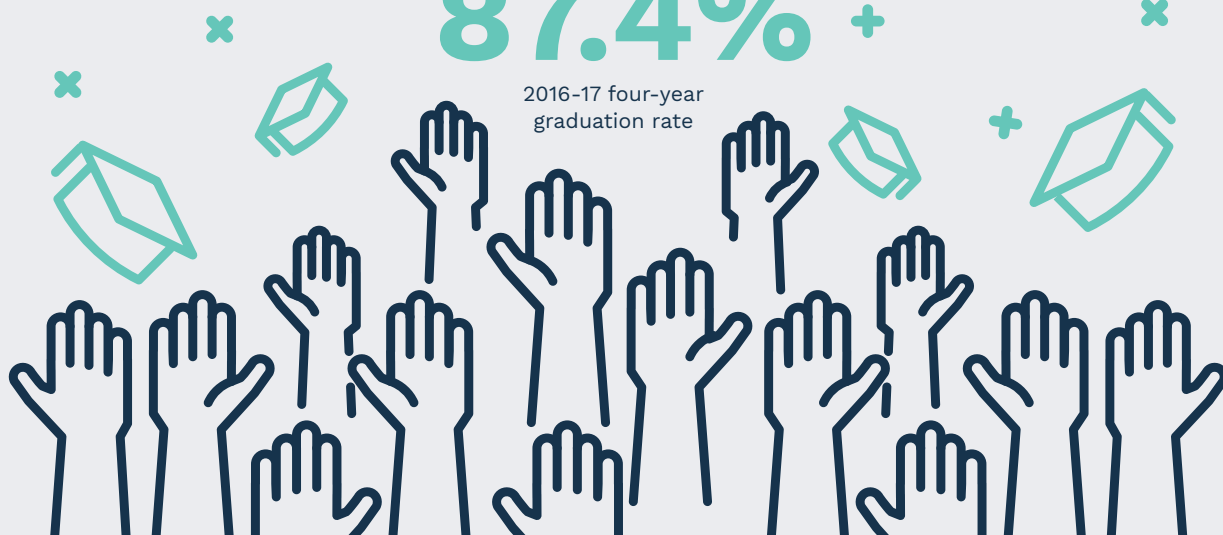
Total AP exams taken

**1,054**

Total AP exams passed  
with a 3 or higher  
on a scale of 1-5

**87.4%**

2016-17 four-year  
graduation rate





# Summer opportunities cultivate learning

Kenosha's summer school program offers interventions and enrichment activities that are consistent with the approved district curriculum.

Elementary and middle school summer teachers provide opportunities for personalized learning in reading and math that encompass collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication around meaningful learning targets.

"Students benefit from these opportunities by extending their learning in a more relaxed atmosphere with smaller groups and with other students that they may not necessarily see throughout the school year," Lincoln Middle School assistant principal Christine Geyer said. "It provides a structured, fun environment."

Students also get the benefit of reading and math support from teachers in a small setting as intervention or enrichment opportunities, or the opportunity to explore content areas they enjoy in more in-depth concepts.

At the high school level, students may earn advanced credit in physical education or participate in credit recovery opportunities.

Programs for transitioning into high school and exposure to work sites in the community also are offered.

In addition to academics, there are multiple opportunities for students to engage in enriching programs offered in fine arts, language acquisition, and career exploration camps.

The Recreation Department also provides swimming lessons and a variety of sports-related opportunities such as tennis and basketball.

"For students to get opportunities like these and to have it available to them for free is great for our community," said longtime summer swim instructor Franz Feldmeier.

The Recreation Department programs also continue to grow due to ongoing support from the district and community. For example, when Feldmeier first started with the program, there were about 400 students participating in summer swim lessons. Today, there are approximately 1,200.

"The interest for these programs is definitely there year after year," he said. "I look forward to it continuing to be successful for years to come."



*For more information, go to [kUSD.edu/summeropportunities](https://kUSD.edu/summeropportunities)*





# Collaborative hands-on math strengthens comprehension

Math instruction in Kenosha Unified focuses on developing students' understanding, procedural fluency and problem-solving skills. Language is a tool that not only allows students to communicate their math understanding to others, but also to organize their own experience, ideas and learning for themselves.

"Mathematical thinking is supported when students have frequent opportunities to share their own thoughts and hear what their classmates are thinking," KUSD math coordinator Jennifer Lawler said. "When students discuss mathematical ideas with one another, they are able to strengthen and clarify their understanding."

Lessons provide opportunities for students to engage in partner and small group tasks to solve interesting problems or investigate mathematical ideas.

"It helps me visualize the problem, so I can understand it

better," Whittier Elementary School student Julia T. said.

During these tasks, students share their thinking, construct convincing arguments regarding how and why things work, and learn to see things from other perspectives.

"It helps you learn more in an easier way," Whittier student Noah J. said.

Teachers support students by asking purposeful questions and structuring whole-class discussions that help students make connections between different strategies and the learning goals of the lesson. By including substantial opportunities for student discourse, Kenosha Unified enables all students to see themselves as doers of mathematics.

"Using hands-on math helps students grasp concepts quickly," Whittier teacher Keri Galley said. "When they can manipulate and see concrete models of their

thinking, they create number sense and it helps them create other math work, too."



**To learn more, go to [kUSD.edu/mathematics](https://kUSD.edu/mathematics)**



# FINANCE BY THE NUMBERS

## Gross total fund expenditures

\$348,617,387

## Operational fund expenditures

(Funds 10 and 27 without interfund transfers)

\$262,272,855

## How were operational funds spent?

Salaries and benefits .....	\$219,369,237 or 83.64%
Purchased services .....	\$26,881,092 or 10.25%
Supplies .....	\$12,829,277 or 4.89%
Capital/short-term debt/ insurance/other .....	\$3,193,249 or 1.22%

## Total tax levy

\$90,741,848

General fund (10) .....	\$73,540,969 or 81.044%
Referendum debt (39) .....	\$5,223,023 or 5.756%
Non-referendum debt (38) ....	\$10,477,856 or 11.547%
Community services (80) .....	\$1,500,000 or 1.653%

## Equalized property value

\$8,868,543,467

## District comprised of property from:

City of Kenosha .....	\$5,388,990,435 or 60.765%
Village of Pleasant Prairie .....	\$2,685,916,232 or 30.286%
Village of Somers .....	\$700,470,300 or 7.898%
Town of Somers .....	\$93,166,500 or 1.051%

Numbers reflect 2017-18 fiscal year

# Aa2

MOODY'S  
RATING

A Moody's rating of Aa2 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.

One of the most common metrics used by financial institutions to evaluate the financial health and credit worthiness of an organization is an independent credit rating issued by an agency such as Moody's Investors Services.

The district's solid financial management practices and growing property tax base over the last few years have led to positive upgrades to our credit rating in spite of the many challenges we face as a public education entity, such as declining revenue caused by declining enrollment.

Our most recent Moody's long-term debt rating included an upgrade from Aa3 to Aa2. When the district needs to borrow large amounts of money for major projects, such as athletic stadiums, energy efficiency projects, or building renovations/construction, we issue bonds or promises to payback a certain amount of money in a certain time period. When investors are considering whether or not to loan us money (i.e. buy our bonds), they look at our credit rating to assess the risk of us not living up to our obligations.

With a rating of Aa2, our obligations are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk, making our bonds very attractive to investors, which leads to lower interest costs for the district and our stakeholders.





**Kenosha Unified**  
School District

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NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
KENOSHA, WI  
PERMIT NO. 478

\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

# BE A SUPERHERO

To get involved and help our students succeed, go to

**[kUSD.edu/getinvolved](https://kUSD.edu/getinvolved)**



*Thank You*

for your ongoing support of  
our students and staff.

