



Gator News

August
2023

Learning, Leadership and Laughter...The JRG Journey

J.R. Gerritts Middle School • 545 S. John St. • Kimberly, WI • 920-788-7905



A Glance

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- Fall Sports—Code of Conduct/Concussion
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Supply Drop Off—4:30 PM

ROCKS Kick Off and Open House—5:30-7:00 PM

September 5
First Day of School

Hello Gator Families!

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying the month of August. The past months have certainly been busy times here at JRG. Our teachers, custodial staff and admin team have been working hard getting ready to welcome you all to another wonderful year of learning and growing! We are committed to helping all of our learners be the best version of themselves as responsible and confident problem solvers. We do this by working to create a sense of belonging for all of the students as part of the JRG family. That being said, we truly appreciate the partnership we have with our parents and families working together to help each and every student be successful as they continue on their educational journey.

Please take a moment to review this August newsletter in preparation for a great 23-24 year, paying special attention to:

- Our Annual Update in Infinite Campus
- Our New and Improved Open House / Follow the Schedule Night
- Our ROCKS club pledge

I am excited and looking forward to seeing you all in a few weeks. If at any time I can address any of your questions through the school year, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 920.788.7905

Meet Ashley Duda, Dean of Students



Hello JRG Families. I am excited and honored to be joining JRG and the Kimberly Area School District as a Dean of Students. I started my career in education as a School Counselor in the Kaukauna Area School district after graduating with my Masters in Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. After being a School Counselor for six years I decided to step into the world of School Administration. I earned a second Masters in Educational Leadership from Viterbo University and had the privilege to serve the Marinette School District as an Associate Principal and Principal of Marinette Middle School.

My husband and I both grew up in the Green Bay area and have decided to plant our roots in the Fox Valley where we currently live with our dog Millie. Together we enjoy spending time with our families, traveling, and being outdoors.

I am excited to be joining this school and district community! Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Go Gators!

Mosquito Hill Field Trip for 7th Graders

We have an exciting opportunity for our seventh grade students this year! Each team will be participating in an all-day field trip to [Mosquito Hill](#), located in New London coming up in September. Here, students will be taking part in two different sessions. One session will include an ecology tour on the [Overlook Trail](#). This .89 mile walking trail will include information about how animals survive winter, the importance of prairies and plantings, pond ecology, water changes as well as tree leaves changing colors and how this all changes from fall to winter.

The second session is an eco-challenge, where students will focus on group cooperation, problem solving and leadership skills while also learning about the environment. Each obstacle is no more than twenty-four inches off the ground and centers around concepts such as migration, migration, interconnectedness, symbiosis and carrying capacity.

This field trip will occur during school hours, so no adjustments will need to be made to any before/after school activities. The cost will be \$5.00 per student. Teachers will be handing out permission slips to students at the beginning of the school year.

If you have any questions about this unique learning experience, please contact the assistant principal, Emily Behnke at ebehnke@kimberly.k12.wi.us, for more information.



Important Dates & Summer Hours

- August 7th 3:00 - 7:00 pm - Picture Day at JRG (*pictures can be taken at any school for grades 4K-8)
- August 16th 7:30 – 11:30 am - Picture Day at JRG (*pictures can be taken at any school for grades 4K-8)
- August 30th 4:30 – 5:30 pm - Supply Drop Off
- August 30th 5:30 - 7:00 pm - Open House / Follow the Schedule Night
- September 5th - First Day of School

The JRG office summer hours are as follows (hours subject to change due to cleaning and staff availability).

Now - August 10: Monday-Thursday 7:00 am-3:45 pm (Closed on Fridays)
August 14 - August 25: Monday-Friday 7:00 am-3:30 pm
School Year Hours: Monday-Friday 7:00 am-3:45 pm

The School Day

The school doors open at 7:00 a.m. Students who arrive prior to 7:17 a.m. will wait in the Commons. When the bell rings at 7:17 a.m., students are dismissed to go to their lockers and then head to their TLC. Our school day begins at 7:30 a.m. in TLC, including daily announcements.

JRG Open House / Follow the Schedule Night

August 30th JRG will be hosting an Open House / Follow the Schedule night for all students and their families. During this time, students and families will get the opportunity to visit with all of the amazing staff they will see on their first day of school, and learn a little bit about their teachers and what to expect in class this school year.

The format will be a little different from previous years. We will still have time from 4:30 - 5:30 for students to put their school supplies in their locker. Then, after a short gathering in the large gym at 5:30, students and parents will follow the first day schedule in order. Teachers will host a short meet and greet to introduce themselves and talk about their class. The ROCKS kick off of that was typically done at this time, will be done early in the school year so that all students can hear about this great opportunity (see below).

In order to make the Open House day most successful for our students, please note the following:

- It would be most beneficial to have access to your student's schedule ahead of time. The schedule can be accessed via the Infinite Campus app or printed off at home. During the event, we will have limited availability to print schedules. If you need a schedule printed ahead of time, please do not hesitate to reach out to our main office at 920.788.7905
- If you don't have a parent portal account for Infinite Campus, you can request one [here](#)
- The Infinite Campus App can be found on the Google Play or Apple store.
- Once in the App:
 - Select your student
 - On the left hand menu, select "Schedule"
 - Select Q1
 - Scroll Down to "Day R", for Red day. This will be your child's first day schedule
- Please have your child drop off their supplies during the available time from 4:30-5:30 on August 30th. If this time does not work, please contact the Main Office to schedule a time.
- School administrative staff will also be available before and after the Follow the Schedule Event to answer any further questions you may have.

ROCKS - Recognizing Our Committed KidS

JRG ROCKS is a long standing club that promotes healthy and safe decision making to help keep our kids and JRG drug and alcohol free. ROCKS promotes positive healthy and fun activities while reinforcing positive and healthy choices.

When students make the promise to commit to being drug and alcohol free, they are able to participate in fun activities each and every month with their peers. Some of these great events are:

- The Run for ROCKS
- Zoo Boo
- Bowling
- Movie Night
- End of the Year ROCKS lock-in

To be a ROCKS member and participate in these fun events, we ask students and parents to read and sign the ROCKS Pledge on the next page to show your commitment to stay drug and alcohol free.

ROCKS advisors for the 2023 2024 school year are: Julie Kramer, Stephanie Wild and Andrea Diamond



Recognizing Our Committed KidS

ROCKS (Recognizing Our Committed KidS) is a group of students who are making the promise to keep themselves and JRG drug and alcohol free. By keeping this promise, not only are you keeping yourself safe and healthy, you are also entitled to attend a variety of fun ROCKS activities throughout the school year.

STUDENT PLEDGE

Please read through each part of this pledge with your parent or guardian, and commit to keeping yourself and JRG drug and alcohol free by making the following promises. Please check all of the boxes:

- ☐ I am committed to remaining tobacco, nicotine, drug, and alcohol free.
- ☐ I am committed to taking positive steps in creating a school environment where my peers and I can feel comfortable making good choices.
- ☐ I want to remain tobacco, nicotine, drug, and alcohol free for me, my family and my community!

JRG ROCKS RULES

At JRG, we strive to demonstrate the Four Community Values of Respect, Honesty, Responsibility and Kindness. In order to be a ROCKS member and participate in all ROCKS activities, please indicate that you understand the following ROCKS Rules:

- ☐ I understand that if I use or possess any drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, vapes, nicotine or similar items, I am removed from ROCKS and can no longer participate in the ROCKS events.
- ☐ I understand I must be in school for at least a half-day on the day of a ROCKS event and be in good disciplinary standing to attend.

Student Name: _____ **Student Grade:** _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Student TLC Teacher: _____

Student T-Shirt Size: _____

Congratulations on becoming a member of ROCKS!
Thanks for doing your part to keep JRG drug and alcohol free!

8th Annual Run for ROCKS

Wednesday, September 20, 2023



Leave JRG run/walk@ approx 3:15 P.M.
Parent pick-up at Sunset Park @ 5:00 P.M.

Join ROCKS as we start your commitment to a tobacco, alcohol, and drug-free lifestyle. JRG students are invited to participate in a 2-mile run/walk from JRG to Sunset Park.

We will have a picnic celebration in the shelter at Sunset Park with burgers/hot dogs and water. Please drop off prepackaged chips, cookies, and snacks to share in the bins at the JRG Commons on the day of the run/walk event (**no home baked items please**).

Cost of this event:

\$8.00 to participate in the run/walk/picnic in the park

Families are welcome to join in the run/walk/picnic.

Please purchase additional tickets for any additional family members wanting to participate.

*** Students do not need to have or print the Eventbrite "ticket." This is for registration and permission purposes only.*

Tickets will be sold online on Eventbrite starting Monday, August 7th at 7:00 am until Wednesday, September 13th at 11:59 PM.

eventbrite

Please register for this event and purchase tickets at the following

Eventbrite link: [RUN FOR ROCKS](#)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jrg-rocks-run-for-rocks-23-24-tickets-691840201667?aff=oddtcreator>

**** Note:** For safety and planning purposes, no late registrations will be accepted for any reason. No exceptions. Additionally, you must be in school and be in good disciplinary standing on the day of the event to attend. Any requests for exemption must be addressed before the event to be considered for approval by the administration.

No refunds will be given for this event.

Students must sign the ROCKS pledge in order to participate.

You can find the pledge form in the August Gator News or at JRG during Open House/Walk the Schedule Night

School Fees

Pay 2023-24 School Fees Starting August 1st! School Fees are due by September 30th.

You have several options to pay school fees:

- **Preferred Method:** Pay online on your Infinite Campus parent portal page, beginning, Monday, August 1st. The usual \$1.75 credit card fee will be waived between August 1-September 31 for those paying fees online.
- Mail a check to the school office (545 S. John Street, Kimberly, WI 54136). **Checks payable to KASD.**
- If these options do not work for you at this time, please contact the main office at 920-788-7905.

* Please see the School Lunch information below if you would like to have your school fees waived due to financial circumstances.

7th Grade Fees (Required)	8th Grade Fees (Required)
General School Fee - \$30.00 Physical Education Shirt - \$8.00	General School Fee \$30.00 Physical Education Shirt - \$8.00
For Band Students , either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumental (required unless students own their instrument) - \$120.00 • Percussion (covers cost of maintaining percussion instruments) - \$40.00 If you see the rental cost in your fees and you own your own instrument, please contact our Main Office at 788-7905.	For Band Students , either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumental (required unless students own their instrument) - \$120.00 • Percussion (covers cost of maintaining percussion instruments) - \$40.00 If you see the rental cost in your fees and you own your own instrument, please contact the Main Office at 788-7905.
7th Grade Fees (Optional)	8th Grade Fees (Optional)
Student Agenda - \$3.00 (students may use online tools such as Google Calendar and Google Classroom or purchase their own planner) Yearbook - Information will be coming later in the year from the yearbook vendor.	Student Agenda - \$3.00 (students may use online tools such as Google Calendar and Google Classroom or purchase their own planner) Yearbook - Information will be coming later in the year from the yearbook vendor.

School Lunch

Below are the links for our Free and Reduced Lunch program. If you are approved for Free and Reduce lunch, and would also like to have fees waived, it is necessary to also fill out the Sharing of Information form.

[2023-2024 Free & Reduced Meal Application](#)

[Free & Reduced Meals Program Information](#)

[Free & Reduced Meals -Sharing Information with Other Programs](#)

Additional Forms & Information

Additional information including optional forms, school supply lists, and athletic forms can be found on the KASD website at [Students & Parents > Forms](#).

Locker Information

Beginning on August 29th you will be able to access your student's locker information through Infinite Campus on the student schedule. The student schedule will include your child's locker information, including locker number and combination. Locker sizes are: Lockers 1-876 are 12" wide / 11" deep. Lockers 2651-2954 are 14 ¾" wide / 11" deep.

Annual Update

The Annual Update replaces the paperwork you have completed at each school in the past. This process will guide you through updating and reviewing information for the upcoming school year and must be completed by the primary Parent/Guardian.

Annual Update can be accessed through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If you do not have an Infinite Campus Parent Portal account or have forgotten your username or password, please visit our Infinite Campus webpage.

Annual Update is open in the Parent Portal as of August 1st, and can be accessed by clicking the "Annual Update" link in the Parent Portal located below the user account section. For instructions and more information regarding the Annual Update process, please visit our Infinite Campus webpage.

If you do not have computer access and need assistance with the Annual Update, please contact the JRG office at 788-7905.

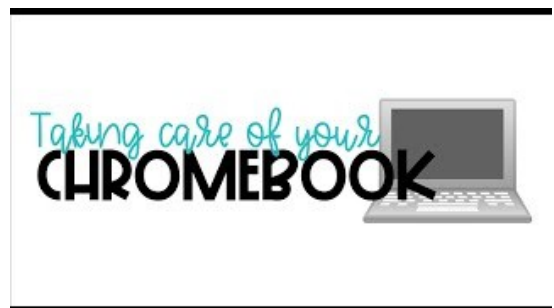
Welcome New Staff!

- Emily Bolden—Band
- Ronda Dickey—Paraprofessional
- Ashley Duda—Dean of Students
- Jessie Hermes—Phy Ed/Health
- Charley Hrobskey—Language Arts
- Amy Knapp—Paraprofessional
- Lauryn Leist—Language Arts
- Jacob Nelson—Language Arts
- Dan Putman—Computer Science
- Ally Weyenberg—Paraprofessional
- Erin Wyss—Office Manager
- Krista Zachor—Student Services Secretary



Chromebook Cases & Chargers

The District provides cases to help protect the Chromebook. We encourage students not to remove the Chromebooks from these cases, including when charging the device. To charge the Chromebook, open the case so you are able to see the screen and plug it in. When you are done charging the Chromebook you should put the charger in the front pouch so you have it with you at all times. Chromebooks are the property of KASD and students are expected to treat them with care. Students are not allowed to decorate or personalize Chromebooks such as adding stickers, drawings, personal cases, etc.



Missing Chargers

Students who did not turn in their chromebook charger on the Chromebook Turn-in Day will not be issued a replacement charger over summer. If your student finds their charger over summer, they can just bring it with them on the 1st day of school.

On the 1st day of school, if your student is still missing a chromebook charger, a new one will need to be issued to them. The form on the next page will need to be completed and returned. At that time, the replacement fee will be charged to their Infinite Campus account.

Work Permits

The Department of Workforce Development's Equal Rights Division has developed a new online work permit application tool. The Division decided to pursue an online application that would be available to the parents of minors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any computer, tablet, smartphone, or similar device.

The application is live now. A parent can access the site [using these instructions](https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/laborstandards/workpermit/). Payment is made directly to the department through the application, using a credit or debit card or by ACH direct withdrawal. Once the permit application process is complete, the Department mails a paper copy of the permit directly to the employer.

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/laborstandards/workpermit/>

KASD Student Technology Replacement Request for lost or damaged items

At the beginning of each school year, Kimberly Area School District supplies each student with a case and a charger for their chromebook. If either of these items becomes damaged or lost, it is the responsibility of the student's family to request a new one from the school district. Obviously, a student needs a charger to charge the chromebook, but the student's chromebook must also have a case to protect it while moving between rooms and/or home.

The district will provide replacement chargers and cases if needed. Replacement costs for each item are listed below. If you need to purchase a new charger or case, please complete the form below and return it to the school library. Replacement costs will be applied directly to Infinite Campus. **DO NOT SEND CASH OR CHECK WITH THIS FORM.**

Student first and last name: _____

Grade _____

I authorize the Kimberly Area School District to provide my child with the item I've indicated below. I understand that a charge for this item will be applied to our Infinite Campus account.

_____ replacement chromebook charger - \$20

_____ replacement chromebook case - \$25

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Date _____

Return this form to your school library.

LMC para:

(initial and date)

_____ IT ticket created

_____ item given to student

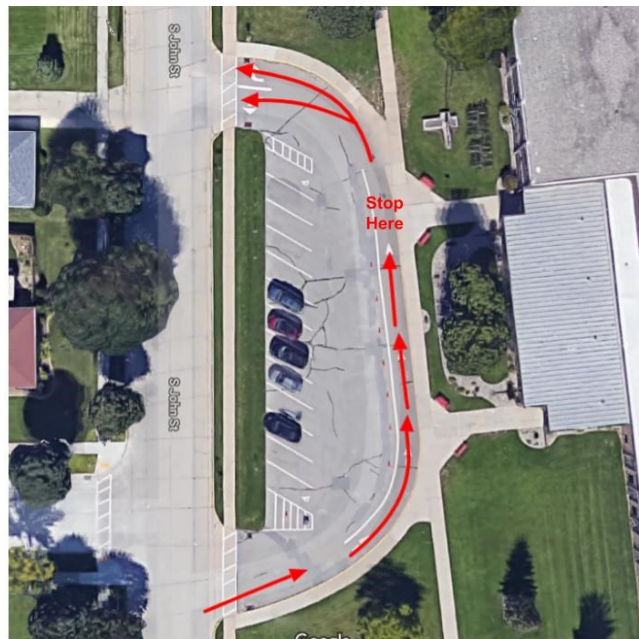
_____ form filed

Traffic Flow at Morning Drop-off and Afternoon Pick-up—WE NEED YOUR HELP!

JRG experiences a high traffic volume every morning when students are getting dropped off at school. This can lead to congestion in our front circle drive parking lot and a good portion of John Street in front of school. You can help us clear this congestion and allow more kids to get dropped up quickly and safely by doing a few simple things:

- Pull all the way forward to the main office door before letting your child out. This allows us to get more cars in at a time and more kids dropped off.
- Consider dropping your child off on a nearby street and have them walk the rest of the way when possible.
- Keep inside the coned area.
- We also ask that you refrain from parking in the circle drive before 2:40pm while waiting for your child before the end of the school day.
- For safety reasons, parents may not pick their child up in the south lot by the stadium. This area is reserved for buses only.
- Also for safety reasons, parents may not pick their child up in the driveway on the north side of the building or in the rear staff lot.

Thanks for your cooperation in helping keep our kids safe and on time for school.



Walk Your Wheels

For safety reasons, **Do Not Ride on School Property.**

If you ride your bike, skateboard, or any other form of "wheels" to school, please note that you may not ride them before and after school - you must walk them on the school grounds. There are signs at all entry points to the property informing students of when they need to "Walk Their Wheels." Once a student reaches campus, they will need to walk their bike, pick up their skateboard, etc. This is for the safety of the entire student and staff population.

Bike racks are located near the South Parking Lot and near the Main Office entrance.

Bus Transportation

Bus information will be available to view in Infinite Campus the week before school begins. You will be able to find this information under "More" and the area "Bus Transportation".

Please contact Lamers Bus Services at 920-832-8800 ext. 2 with any questions. Please do not call the district with questions regarding your routes, as we do not have this information.

Crossing Information for Students Walking or Biking from Combined Locks

With the addition of stoplights at Wallace Street and S. Washington Street, the Village of Kimberly has designated that intersection as the pedestrian crossing and will no longer have a crossing guard at the intersection of Barbara Street and S. Washington Street. For safety reasons, students should cross S. Washington at the stoplight at Wallace Street.

Please Help JRG Become Fragrance-Free

JRG is attempting to limit fragrances in our school. One of our teachers was diagnosed with [Mast Cell Disease](#), similar to Mast Cell Activation Syndrome. This is a rare disorder and one that has significant consequences to the person with the diagnosis. Mast cells are necessary for life and play a major role in our body's immune system. When mast cells function normally, they keep a person healthy. With Mast Cell Disease, the body has too many mast cells and they are very reactive, which in turn causes an autoimmune reaction (essentially, the body is attacked by its own immune system). The disease is often misdiagnosed, and comes with a long list of possible triggers and symptoms.

In the case of our teacher, we need your help with a specific trigger that causes significant and at times debilitating symptoms - fragrances such as cologne, after shave lotion, perfume, perfumed lotion, fragranced hair products, and/or similar products. By reducing exposure to these triggers, symptoms will also be reduced. We are asking our families for any and all help they can provide in reducing fragrances coming into JRG. Your assistance in minimizing or eliminating fragrances can help not only this teacher, but also other students who have sensitivities and allergies related to fragrances by improving indoor air quality (please see the [American Lung Association](#) for more information on indoor air quality).

If you have questions, please feel free to contact our District Nurse, Katy Dederig, or Principal Rob DeLain. We appreciate your support!

Emergency Medications

Please be aware that emergency medications that are provided for use during the school day will not be accessible after school hours. Parents and students plan ahead to have emergency medication available during after school activities such as clubs and sports. If an emergency arises and a student does not have their emergency medication available, 911 will be called.

A Note From The Health Room—Inhalers

If your student is carrying their own inhaler to school, please make sure it has their name or initials on the inhaler itself. Throughout the year, inhalers are a common item left behind and having initials on it will allow us to return it to the proper person.

Meningitis

Meningitis is an infection of fluid surrounding the brain and the spinal cord and causes blood infections. Anyone can get meningococcal disease. Meningococcal infections can be treated with drugs such as penicillin. Still, about one out of every ten people who get the disease dies from it, and many others are affected for life. This is why *preventing* the disease through good hygiene (i.e.: good hand washing and not sharing water bottles) and use of meningococcal vaccine is important.

The vaccine is not mandated for school attendance, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend the immunization for students at the preadolescent doctor's visit (11 to 12-year-olds). (See the CDC website or talk with your health care provider.)

J.R. Gerritts Supply List 2023-24

JRG will have agendas available for an optional fee. This is not a required purchase.

Grade 7 - General supplies for all Students

Ear buds (with a headphone jack to fit chromebook, no wireless earbuds)
Sturdy pencil case
#2 Pencils – 2 boxes and erasers
Blue or Black pens
Colored pencils (also used for art)
1 - Accordion file folder or four pocket folders

TLC 7 Students (all 7th graders)

1 box of facial tissue
Disinfectant Wipes
4 Expo Dry –Erase Markers

7th Grade Math

Scientific Calculator
**Chromebooks and phones are not allowed on assessments*
1 small book cover or paper bag
2 notebooks - Graph ruled or quad ruled notebook
1 - pink, green & yellow highlighter

7th Grade ELA

2 single subject notebooks
1 Folder (or accordion file folder)

Spanish 7

3-ring binder (1")

Computer Science

Composition Style Notebook

Band 7 Students

*Essential Elements 2000 Book 2"
BLACK 3-ring binder (1")

Choir 7 Students

3-ring binder (1")
Composition Style Notebook

Grade 8 - General supplies for all students

Ear buds (with a headphone jack to fit chromebook, no wireless earbuds)
Sturdy pencil case
#2 Pencils – 2 boxes and erasers
Blue or Black pens
Colored pencils
1 pack of washable markers
1 - pink, green and yellow highlighter
1 – 3 Subject notebook
1 - Accordion file folder or 4 pocket folders
1 Jumbo book cover (or 1 paper grocery bag)

TLC 8 Students (all 8th graders)

1 box of facial tissue
Disinfectant Wipes
4 Expo Dry –Erase Markers

8th Grade Math

Scientific Calculator
**Chromebooks and phones are not allowed on assessments*
1 small book cover or paper bag
1 per semester - Graph ruled or quad ruled notebook

8th Grade ELA

2 single subject notebooks
1 envelope with a forever stamp

Spanish 8

3-ring binder (1")

Computer Science

Composition Style Notebook

Band 8 Students

BLACK 3-ring binder (1")

Choir 8 Students

3-ring binder (1")

[Click here to access the supply list online!](#)

Note: Please feel free to recycle/reuse materials from year to year!

Locker Sizes

The student schedule will include your child's locker information, including locker number and combination. Locker sizes are: Lockers 1-876 are 12" wide / 11" deep. Lockers 2651-2954 are 14 ¾" wide / 11" deep.

Dear JRG Families:

We have an exciting opportunity for you to get involved with our Career Planning initiative at JR Gerritts! "Career Planning" helps students better understand the world of work and begin to think about where their strengths and interests align to future education and career options. Middle school students typically know about a limited number of jobs (usually just what members of their family do, and a few others). You may think that what you do would not interest middle school students, but it does! What you have to share may have a lifelong impact on one of our students.



We are seeking parent volunteers to talk about their work to help our students gain a greater awareness of local occupations. On January 19 and May 10, parents or other guest speakers will briefly present their occupation to various classrooms. Within the 15 minute presentation, we would like speakers to:

- Discuss your job description and responsibilities – what you do on a typical day or in a typical week
- Talk about what makes your job interesting, challenging and fulfilling, and what skills and interests are important in your job.
- Present props/visuals related to your job (optional)
- Answer student questions

Our "Career Planning" curriculum uses the concept of career clusters, which bundles jobs into 16 different categories. This year, we will be focusing on eight of those career clusters. Listed below are the eight career clusters, jobs that might be found in each cluster, and the date in which we will be seeking parent/guest speakers in that cluster:

JANUARY 19

Hospitality and Tourism	Human Services	Government and Public Administration	Manufacturing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Industry • Travel • Amusement • Recreation • Gaming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care • Therapists • Real Estate • Textile • Customer Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postal Service • Tax Preparers • Transportation • Building Inspectors • Criminal Investigator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machine Operator • Natural Resources • Home Repair • Interior Design • Installation

MAY 10

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources	Marketing, Sales, and Service	Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming • Food Preparation • Machine Operators • Park Service • Veterinary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising • Sales • Real Estate • Travel Agent • Sales Representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airlines • Automotive Repair • Truck Operators • Transit • Delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineer • Researcher • Mapping • Doctor • Statistician

If you would like to help and do not see a category that fits with your occupation, we will be presenting the other eight career clusters during the 2024-2025 school year.

If you are interested in helping, please return this form to the JR Gerritts front office along with the career cluster and job that you wish to share. Please contact Brad Demmin at bdemmin@kimberly.k12.wi.us or (920) 423-4103 with questions or for more information. We'll get in touch with you closer to the date of the presentation to confirm and finalize details.

Name: _____

Email/Phone: _____

Career Cluster: _____

Occupation: _____

JRG Fall Sports Sign Up

Any students interested in participating in fall sports at JRG should [click here](#) to access the link to fill out the Fall Sports Sign Up Google Form.

All athletes must have a physical form on file to participate. All athletes and parents/guardians must also read the Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion/Head Injury Information Sheets. All these forms can be found on the JRG website as well as the following pages of this newsletter. We do not require a physical form for tennis as it's more of an intramural sport. Volleyball will have tryouts on Sept. 5th, 6th and 7th. We keep a total of 30 players at each grade level and evenly divide them into 2 teams per grade level.

Information regarding Concussion & Head Injury Information and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheets

If your child will be participating in any co-curricular athletic activities during the 2023-24 school year there are a few items to be aware of. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction now requires student athletes and parents/guardians to review the Concussion & Head Injury Information and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheets prior to the start date of any athletic season. At this time any co-curricular athletics that begin in the Fall 2022 season parents/guardians and students are required to read and review both informational sheets. As we move forward into the Winter 2023-24 athletic season, parents/guardians and students will also be required to sign the KHS & JRG Concussion and SCA Agreement. Both informational sheets and the agreement can be found on the JRG website by clicking [here](#). Signed forms can be turned into the JRG Main office or directly to Athletic Director, Mary Hammen.

Girls Volleyball Try Outs

Tryouts for the Girls volleyball teams will be held soon, and we would like to share more information about the process. This is an exciting time, but can also be a time of high emotions and tensions for parents, players, and coaches. JRG offers two teams at each grade level, but because the numbers of girls interested are usually high, we must use a tryout system for this sport. We hope to answer some of the questions you may have about this process.

The tryout period will last 2 to 3 days and will be held in the large gym at JRG. The 8th graders will practice 3:10-4:30 and 7th graders 4:30-6:00. Players must attend all tryout dates.

Tryout dates:

Tuesday, Sept. 5th, 1st day of tryouts

Wednesday, Sept. 6th, 2nd day of tryouts (some cuts will be made this day)

Thursday, Sept. 7th, 3rd day of tryouts (final cuts will be made)

Each practice session will last about 1 ½ hours. We will keep a total of 30 players. Once the teams have been decided the coaches will divide the players into 2 equal teams.

Many factors will go into the decision on whether or not a player makes the teams. Our coaches do the best they can to fairly evaluate all the players. Coaches use the same rating system for all students, and we often bring in additional coaches from middle and high school to help us evaluate players. Some of the factors considered are:

1. The player's fundamental volleyball skills include passing, setting, serving and court awareness.
2. How the player functions as a teammate and leader.
3. The player's attitude and effort.

Students who do not make the team are encouraged to continue working on their skills and to tryout again next year.. Almost every year, we have students who make the team in grade 8 who did not make the team in grade 7 because they continued to play and work on their skills. There are many ways to improve, such as playing in other organized leagues or by attending one of the many camps that are offered in our area.

Feedback Available To Players Who Do Not Make The Team

If a player wants to know what they could work on to better their chances next year we encourage them to ask the coaches. They can either approach the coach after practice or set up a time to meet with them the next day at school. We encourage you to allow the athlete to have this discussion, as it is a great life skill. If you have questions about this process, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,
Mary Hammen
Athletic Director
(920) 423-4106

Concussion and Head Injury Information

Wis. Stat. § 118.293 Concussion and Head Injury

What Is a Concussion? A concussion is a type of head (brain) injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. Even what seems to be a mild bump to the head can be serious. Concussions can have a more serious effect on a young, developing brain and need to be addressed correctly. Consequences of severe brain injury (including concussion) include problems with thinking, memory, learning, coordination, balance, speech, hearing, vision, and emotional changes.

What are the signs and symptoms of a concussion? You cannot see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after an injury or may not appear or be noticed until hours or days after the injury. It is important to watch for changes in how you as an athlete or your child or teen is acting or feeling, if symptoms are getting worse, or if you/they just "don't feel right." Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

If the child or teen reports one or more of the symptoms of concussion listed below, or if you notice the signs or symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away. Children and teens are among those at greatest risk for concussion.

These are some SIGNS of concussion (what others can see in an injured athlete):

- Dazed or stunned appearance
- Unsure of score, game, opponent
- Clumsy
- Answers more slowly than usual
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Loss of consciousness (even briefly)
- Repeats questions
- Forgets class schedule or assignments

Children and teens with a suspected concussion should NEVER return to sports or recreation activities on the same day the injury occurred.

They should delay returning to their activities until a healthcare provider experienced in evaluating for concussion says it is OK to return to play. This means, until permitted, not returning to:

- Physical Education (PE) class
- Sports practices or games
- Physical activity at recess

These are some of the more common SYMPTOMS of concussion (what an injured athlete feels):

- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizzy or unsteady
- Sensitive to light or noise or blurry vision
- Difficulty thinking clearly, concentrating, or remembering
- Irritable, sad, or feeling more emotional than usual
- Sleeps *more* or *less* than usual

If you or your child or teen has signs or symptoms of a concussion

Seek medical attention right away. A healthcare provider experienced in evaluating for concussion can determine how serious the concussion is and when it is safe to return to normal activities, including physical activity and school (concentration and learning activities).

After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. Activities may need to be limited while recovering. This includes exercise and activities that involve a lot of concentration.

Information adapted from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) Heads Up Safe Brain. Stronger Future.](#)

For more information view the [CDC's Heads Up to Youth Sports webpages for athletes, parents, and coaches.](#)



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction



Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information

[Wis. Stat. § 118.2935 Sudden cardiac arrest; youth athletic activities](#)

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), while rare, is the leading cause of death in young athletes while training or participating in sport competition. Even athletes who appear healthy and have a normal preparticipation screening may have underlying heart abnormalities that can be life-threatening. A family history of SCA at younger than age 50 or cardiomyopathy (heart muscle problem) places an athlete at greater risk. **Athletes should inform the healthcare provider performing their physical examination about their family's heart history.**

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest? Cardiac arrest is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain, lungs, and other vital organs.

Cardiac arrest usually causes death if it is not treated with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and an automated external defibrillator (AED) within minutes.

Cardiac arrest is not the same as a heart attack. A heart attack occurs if blood flow to part of the heart muscle is blocked. During a heart attack, the heart usually does not suddenly stop beating. In cardiac arrest the heart stops beating.

What warning signs during exercise should athletes/coaches/parents watch out for?

- Fainting/blackouts (especially during exercise)
- Dizziness
- Unusual fatigue/weakness
- Chest pain/tightness with exertion
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea/vomiting
- Palpitations (heart is beating unusually fast or skipping beats)

Speak up and tell a coach and parent/guardian if you notice problems when exercising.

If an athlete has any warning signs of SCA while exercising, they should **seek medical attention and evaluation from a healthcare provider before returning to a game or practice.**

The risk associated with continuing to participate in a youth activity after experiencing warning signs is that the athlete may experience SCA, which usually causes death if not treated with CPR and an AED within minutes.

Stop activity/exercise immediately if you have any of the warning signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

What are ways to screen for Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)?

[WIAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation](#) – the Medical History form includes important heart related questions and is required every other year. Additional screening using an electrocardiogram and/or an echocardiogram may be done if there are concerns in the history or physical examination but is not required (by WIAA). Parents/guardians/athletes should discuss the need for specific cardiac testing with the medical provider performing the review of family history and physical evaluation or after experiencing warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest while exercising. The cost of the pre-participation physical and any follow up examinations or recommended testing including an electrocardiogram is the responsibility of the athlete and their parents/guardians. **Not all cases or causes of SCA in young athletes are detected in the history, examination, or with testing.**

What is an electrocardiogram, its risks, and benefits? An electrocardiogram (ECG) is one of the simplest and fastest tests used to evaluate the heart. Electrodes (small, plastic patches that stick to the skin) are placed at specific spots on the chest, arms, and legs. The electrodes are connected to an ECG machine by wires. The electrical activity of the heart is then measured, interpreted, and printed out. No electricity is sent into the body. Risks associated with having an ECG are minimal and rare. The benefits include that it

is an easy procedure to do, can be performed in many health care offices and it may detect heart conditions in children with no symptoms. **ECGs are good at detecting certain heart conditions that may increase risk for SCA but may not detect all such conditions.** If not performed correctly the information is not valid and may lead to more (unnecessary) testing and further examinations. ECGs should be interpreted by experts in reading ECGs in children (i.e., pediatric cardiologists). For more information, [view the Johns Hopkins Medicine - Electrocardiogram website.](#)

How may a student athlete and parent/guardian request the administration of an electrocardiogram and a comprehensive physical examination? Athletes participating in WIAA sports are required to have a physical examination and review of family history every other year. Other youth sports have similar requirements. Although the cost of these medical examinations is the responsibility of the athlete's family many school districts can assist students to find low cost or no cost ways to obtain these examinations. Athletes should contact their school athletic director if they need assistance in getting an examination. If an athlete has risk factors, family history of heart disease, or has had warning signs associated with sudden cardiac arrest while exercising, they should tell the medical provider performing the history and physical examination and discuss the possible need for an electrocardiogram.

J.R.Gerritts Middle School Co-Curricular Code

The mission of the J. R. Gerritts Middle School Co-Curricular Program is to provide an enjoyable educational experience based on the developmental characteristics and needs of the young adolescent. The development of our young adolescents' self-esteem, citizenship, responsibility, and skills in cooperation and leadership are positive outcomes of our co-curricular programs. These programs should be enjoyable, vigorous, and safe, while occurring in a positive climate with appropriate adult leadership and support. Our co-curricular programs are an essential part of the total educational process and an excellent opportunity for the home, school, and community to come together.

Co-curricular activities in middle school include:

- *Activities where involvement occurs primarily outside the regular school day*
- *Activities that are connected to a class*
- *Activities where the public is the primary audience*
- *Activities to which members are elected or appointed*
- *Activities where students choose to participate voluntarily*
- *Activities where regular attendance is an expectation*

(Examples of co-curricular activities at J.R.G. include but are not limited to athletics, Sources of Strength, Student Council, school play, talent show, etc)

Academics

The student must be in good academic standing. If they are not, the student will be expected to be at practice but will not be allowed to perform or compete until passing all courses.

Attendance

Unless an absence has been prearranged (doctor/dental appointment, etc.) or administratively approved, a student must be in school for at least one-half of the school day to participate in any practice or contest. Students with an unexcused absence on any part of the next school day following an event will be ineligible to participate in the next event for each activity in which the student is involved.

Students Participating in Co-Curricular activities are expected to:

- Abide by all school rules as defined in the Student/ Parent Handbooks, Agenda, and Board Policy
- Practice the KASD Community values of Respect, Kindness, Honesty and Responsibility
- Refrain from possessing, using and/or being under the influence of controlled substances or intoxicants (including, but not limited to, alcohol, non-alcoholic beer or wine, tobacco or electronic cigarettes. These points do not include drugs prescribed for you by a person licensed to do so.)

Penalties

- Any OSS (out of school suspension) or ISS (in school suspension) will result in the loss of participation for at least the duration of the suspension or the next event or performance of the season after the suspension. A suspension may come from a single event or an accumulation of referrals.
- Other infractions may result in further penalties.
- Student, coach, and parent will be notified of any student misconduct.

Coaches and administrators will have the final word when determining eligibility.

As a student of JRG, you are volunteering to represent your JRG and KASD Communities. We will expect you to model the Four Community Values at all times. Our goal is to help students make better choices and learn to be the best person they can be.



JR GERRITTS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC AGREEMENT CARD

THIS CARD MUST BE FILED EVERY YEAR BEFORE PARTICIPATION CAN BEGIN IN ANY ATHLETIC PROGRAM.

1. Examination taken *after April 1* is good for the following TWO SCHOOL YEARS.
2. Examination taken *before April 1* is good for the remainder of that SCHOOL YEAR and the following SCHOOL YEAR.

NAME _____
Last First M.

GRADE _____

CONCUSSION and SCA AGREEMENT

I have read the Parent Concussion and Head Injury Information AND the Athlete Concussion and Head Injury Information and understand what a concussion is and how it may be caused. I also understand the common signs, symptoms, and behaviors. I agree that the athlete must be removed from practice/play if a concussion is suspected and cannot return to practice/play until providing written clearance from an appropriate health care provider to his/her coach.

I agree that my child's ImPACT baseline test data may be available to persons other than the physician or clinician evaluating my child as follows:

- Your child's pre-season ImPACT Baseline test may be transferred to the organization that is providing care to your son/daughter so that it can be utilized as part of their post-concussion care.
- The physician or clinician evaluating your child may choose to make your child's test data available to other health care providers who are being consulted regarding the treatment of your child.

I have read the the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information sheet. I understand that if the athlete has any warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, they should stop the activity immediately and report the symptoms to his/her coach.

Your child's health and safety are at the forefront of the student athletic experience.

 Parent Signature  Student Signature 

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

I have read and understood the information presented in the JR Gerritts Middle School Co-Curricular Code. If I do not understand any of the rules, I will ask for clarification.

 Parent Signature  Student Signature 

Date Signed: _____

Volunteer Opportunities At JR Gerritts

Throughout the year, there are numerous events and ongoing projects that provide volunteer opportunities for our JRG families. If you think you may be interested in helping, and would like us to contact you, please check any boxes that may apply. You are not obligated to volunteer. This form simply provides us with a pool of volunteers to call upon as needed. All volunteers are required to submit a background check before they are able to help out.

If you would prefer to complete this form online, you may do so [here](#).

☐ Fundraiser delivery and distribution (Fall/Spring)

☐ Mini Course Sign-Up (January/February)

☐ Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (April/May)

☐ ROCKS event chaperoning (Monthly)

☐ General Photocopying

☐ LMC

☐ I am willing to help with any projects or events that arise throughout the year

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

THANKS!!!



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter



In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation



In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station



Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.
 - * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.



Local Liaison
Emily Behnke
KASD Homeless Liaison
920.788.7905

State Coordinator
Kristine Nadolski
608.267.7338

If you need further assistance with your children's educational needs,
contact the National Center for Homeless Education:
1-800-308-2145 • homeless@serve.org • www.serve.org/nche



Join OUR TEAM!

Kimberly Area School District is seeking support from our community. Make a difference and consider becoming a **substitute teacher** or a ***substitute paraprofessional***.

APPLY NOW AT
kimberly.k12.wi.us/careers



**Kimberly Area
School District**

FLEXIBLE & REWARDING

- ☒ Earn extra income while your child is at school.
- ☒ Turn your volunteer hours into a paid position.
- ☒ No prior teaching experience needed.
- ☒ Maintain a flexible work schedule.
- ☒ Help students succeed.