



Gator News

December
2023

Learning, Leadership and Laughter...The JRG Journey

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

@ A Glance

December 7

Fall Fundraiser Delivery—3:00
-5:00 PM in the Commons

December 7-8

Fall Play—7:00 PM

December 9

Fall Play—2:00 & 7:00 PM

December 12

Band Concert
7th Grade—6:30 PM
8th Grade—7:30 PM

December 14

ROCKS Movie Night—5:00-
7:30 PM

December 15

Early Release—11:20 AM

December 18-19

Musical Auditions—3:30-6:00

December 25-January 1

No School

January 2

Wrestling and Girls Basketball
begin—see page 10

January 3-10

MAP Testing

January 19

End of Quarter 2

Early Release—11:20 AM

January 22

JRG Herd Performance—
7th Grade Band and
Soundscape—7:00 PM

January 24

8th Grade Transition Night at
KHS—5:00-7:00 PM

January 26

Dance/Dodgeball—3:15-5:30
PM

February 9

Early Release—11:20 AM

February 24

Vocal Solo Ensemble

Greeting, Gator Families!

Saying this time is extraordinarily busy is an understatement. With the hustle and bustle that comes with the change of seasons and all of the gatherings and events of this time of year, it's sometimes difficult to find the time to share our gratitude, celebrate and reflect on all we have experienced so far this year.

In the last month, we are grateful for the opportunity for us to come together as a community to celebrate and recognize our veterans during our annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. Thanks to American Legion Post 60, our guest of honor Andy Kranz, our students and staff who did an exceptional job honoring our veterans for their service. We are also grateful to once again have so many families come to our two nights of parent teacher conferences, reminding us of the powerful partners we have in our mission to help all students reach their potential in the academics, arts and co-curriculars.

Academically speaking, our classrooms continue to be filled with learning and productive challenges for our students. Although this is the time of year when material becomes more challenging, we are working alongside our students to help them identify their gaps, determine appropriate strategies and make a plan to help them continuously find success in their learning. One of the strategies we've been learning alongside our academics is S.T.O.P., which helps students make good choices when confronted with peer pressure, especially around drugs, vaping and alcohol. More about this strategy can be found later in this newsletter.

I have to give recognition to our staff who continuously push themselves harder and harder to meet each and every student every day. Because of their dedication, our students continue to rise to their own challenges and take themselves to new heights and new places in their learning.

In this season of gift-giving, our students continue to share their talents and gifts in so many arts and co-curricular opportunities. Our choirs shone in our recent choir concert, which will soon be followed by our band concert here at JRG, December 12th. Our students will hit the stage this weekend in the Fall Production of Whole Latte Love. Pom and Dance and boys basketball are in full swing, and girls basketball and wrestling will be starting soon. All of our clubs continue to provide our students with great outlets to explore more opportunities and connect with their peers.

I hope you find time in your busy schedules to stop, reflect and share your gratitude this holiday season. If I can be of any assistance to you or your child, please do not hesitate to reach out at rdelain@kimberly.k12.wi.us or 920.788.7905

Take care, and Be Kind!
Rob DeLain
Principal

8th Grade Transition Night at KHS **SAVE THE DATE**

January 24th, 2024 from 5:00-7:00 pm

KHS is excited to host the 2nd Annual **8th Grade Transition Night!** As a family, you can meet with KHS Staff, have the opportunity to attend break out sessions to learn more about KHS, visit department booths, and connect with co-curricular groups to find out how your child can get involved. High School students will also be available for general KHS tours.

This event will take place at Kimberly High School on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Doors will open at 4:45pm.

We look forward to seeing you on January 24th!

S.T.O.P. and Stay Safe!

We want JRG to be Drug and Alcohol Free! Apart from our JRG ROCKS group, which recognizes students who have made the commitment to be drug and alcohol free, we want to give students tips on how to stay safe if they ever find themselves in a situation where drugs or alcohol are offered. In a recent TLC, students learned the S.T.O.P. refusal strategy to help them make good, safe decisions when confronted with challenging peer pressure situations. The strategy is simple and can be used and reinforced at home as a talking point to help you as parents help your child make good decisions. Simply, S.T.O.P. stands for:

- Say No
- Tell Them Why
- Offer an Alternative
- Promptly Move Away

For example, if a student is offered a vape, the S.T.O.P. refusal strategy may look like:

Say No: "No, I don't want to try your vape!"

Tell them why: "I could get kicked off the basketball team!"

Offer an alternative: "Let's get something to eat instead."

Promptly move away: "I have to go home anyway. See ya."

We will continue to use and reinforce this strategy during the year with our students. If you are looking for other resources to help with drug, alcohol and vape awareness, please refer to our KASD website for [more information](#).



J.R. Gerritts Middle School

545 S. John Street • Kimberly, WI 54136
(920) 788-7905 • FAX (920) 788-7914 • www.kimberly.k12.wi.us



JRG School Report Cards Released

As part of its assessment and accountability system, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction creates a School Report Card for every publicly funded school in the state. The Report Cards are intended to help all schools and districts utilize data related to student achievement to monitor their performance and target their improvement efforts. On its Report Card, a school receives a score on a scale of 0 to 100 and one of five ratings based on that score. The ratings range from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*. The school's score and rating are primarily based on the school's performance on statewide assessments in the 2022-23 school year.

JRG's Report Card score was 73.1 and this gave the school a rating of "**Exceeds Expectations**". You can access JRG's Report Card along with those for all of the district's schools and a District Report Card on the DPI's website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>

Report Card scores as well as other district performance reports can also be accessed from the Kimberly Area School District's website: <http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us/departments/about/performance-reports>

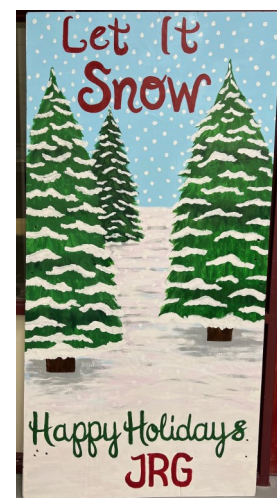
On the actual Report Card, parents can review the specific student performance information that is used to calculate the school's overall score. Keep in mind that these Report Cards are just one source of information about our school. Our staff will use the data from our Report Card as part of our continuous improvement efforts during the current school year. If you have questions about the Report Card feel free to contact me.

Rob DeLain - JRG Principal

JRG Holiday Art Board




The JRG Holiday Board was created by 7th grader students Gianna Tasson and Corrin Torres during art club. This art board as well as boards from other schools can be seen at Memorial Pond in Kimberly.

Beautiful work!



Holiday Spirit Week

We have a spirit week coming up December 18-22. Students are invited to have some fun leading into winter break!

PJ/Comfy Clothes Day  18	Candy Cane Day (wear red and white)  19	Winter Escape: Favorite Vacation shirt/Hawaiian Shirt  20	Rhyme without a Reason (ex. Lamb/Spam)  21	Tacky Sweater Day  22
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7th Grade Health Presentation Helps Students Understand Sexual Harassment

As part of our 7th grade human growth and development curriculum JRG hosts a presentation by the Harbor House of the Fox Cities: <https://www.domesticshelters.org/help/wi/appleton/54914/harbor-house-domestic-and-sexual-violence-center>.

This presentation covers Learning Target #5 of our Human Growth and Development Unit. (Explain the difference between acceptable, respectful physical contact and sexual harassment). The presenter helps students to understand and define sexual harassment, and leads a discussion on how harassment can affect a person's health. This quarter, the presentation will occur in January.

If you have questions or concerns about this presentation, please feel free to contact Ms. Berger at mberger@kimberly.k12.wi.us

NAMI Presentation

This year we were given the opportunity to create a partnership with the Fox Valley National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). A representative from NAMI will be presenting the definition of a mental health condition, warning signs of mental health conditions, and the importance of seeking help and early treatment during 7th grade health classes on January 9.

We are looking forward to this partnership and the education it will provide to the students. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Berger at (920) 788-7905 ext 21131 or mberger@kimberly.k12.wi.us

Ski Club Dates

The bus will leave JRG at 4:30 and will return between 9:30 and 10:00 PM. Students will be able to bring their equipment on the morning of the trips to be stored in a secure room during the day.

8th Grade Dates:

January: 4, 18 February: 1, 22

7th Grade Dates:

January: 11, 25 February: 15, 29

Weather Cancellations of Ski Club Trips

This is a great opportunity for students to experience the Wisconsin winter and have fun with friends. Ski trips will be held in most weather conditions, including significant cold, wind and snow, so students need to be prepared with clothing that will keep them warm and dry.

However, there are times when Ski Club may be cancelled. In general, Ski Club may be cancelled if predicted temperatures including wind-chill exceed -25 degrees, or if weather conditions are expected to make travel difficult or unsafe. If Ski Club is cancelled, students and parents will be notified as soon as possible. In many cases, this notification will occur on the day of the trip based on changing weather conditions. In those cases, students are allowed to call home and we will make a room available to store ski equipment overnight if students need to ride the bus home. We will use methods such as email and our school Facebook page to keep parents informed.

In the event of cancellation, we will attempt to reschedule the trip if possible. Because the fees charged for Ski Club are substantially reduced based on a package cost offered by Nordic Mountain, we are not able to offer refunds for cancellations for students who miss trips.



ROCKS Holiday Movie



Recognizing our Committed KidS
To Keep JRG Drug and Alcohol Free

Join us for our December ROCKS event

Where: Marcus Valley Grand Cinema; W3091 Van Roy Rd, Appleton, WI 54915

When: Thursday, December 14, 2023

Time:

- Parents/guardians drop students off at the movie theater at 5:00 pm
- Movie starts at 5:30 pm
- Pick up students at the theater at 7:30 pm

Popcorn and soda are included in the purchase price.

The movie will be "Fred Claus"

Concessions **WILL NOT** be available for purchase. *Students are encouraged to eat dinner **BEFORE** the event.*

The cost is \$13 for the movie, popcorn, and soda

**** Students do not need to bring or print the Eventbrite "ticket."**



Space is limited to the first 300 online tickets.

Tickets will be sold online starting **Monday, November 27 at 7:30 AM until sold out or Friday, December 8th at 11:59 PM.**

Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jrg-rocks-holiday-movie-at-marcus-cinema-tickets-763542384827?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. If your student is registered for this event but does not show up, we will not issue a refund.

J.R. Gerritts Middle School Theatre Announces...



Directed by: Danna Scherer

Assisted by: Samantha Moritz

Show Details:

Thursday, December 7	7:00PM	JRG Auditorium
Friday, December 8	7:00PM	JRG Auditorium
Saturday, December 9	2:00PM	JRG Auditorium
Saturday, December 9	7:00PM	JRG Auditorium

Tickets can be purchased in advance by clicking [here](#).
Tickets purchased online are reserved seating.
Tickets will also be sold at the door for general seating.

J.R. Gerritts Middle School Theatre Announces...

AUDITIONS



Co-Directed by Sara Ably & Eric Leih

Costumed by Melissa Gerhartz

Audition Information

Monday, December 18	3:30PM - 6:00PM	JRG Auditorium
Tuesday, December 19	3:30PM - 6:00PM	JRG Auditorium

Audition materials will be available on Monday, December 4 in the Choir Room, Student Services, and Room 132. Auditions will include a prepared monologue, prepared section of a Singin' in the Rain Jr. song, and learning a small section of choreography.

SIGN UP FOR AN AUDITION TIME SLOT USING THE QR CODE IN THE AUDITION PACKET!

JRG Career Planning



Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2023

What is Career Planning?

Career Planning, or CP, is a student-driven, adult-supported process in which students create and cultivate their own unique and information-based visions for post secondary success, obtained through self-exploration, career exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills.

Throughout their time at JRG, students will have a variety of opportunities to thoughtfully consider who they are as people and how that relates to future career options. Within the TLC time, students will complete interest inventories, career research, set academic and personal goals and reflect throughout the year with the support of their TLC teacher. Likewise, students will be exposed to a variety of hands-on experiences to help them begin narrowing the focus of possible career options.

Career Planning is based upon career clusters which bundles all jobs into 16 different categories. This year, we will be focusing on eight career clusters, with the remaining eight to follow next year.

Career Planning 2023-2023 Career Cluster Plan		
	Year 1	Year 2
SEPT	Hospitality & Tourism	Health Science
OCT	Human Services	Arts, Audio/Visual, Technology, & Communication
NOV	Government & Public Administration	Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
DEC	Manufacturing	Finance
JAN	Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources	Architecture & Construction
FEB	Marketing	Education
MAR	Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	Information Technology
APR	STEM	Business
MAY	Final Reflection	

This month's focus cluster:

Manufacturing

A sampling of careers included in this cluster:

- Automobile Assembler
- Blacksmith
- Clothing Manufacturer
- Electrician
- Engineering Tech
- Machinist
- Pipefitter
- Plumber
- Sheet Metal Worker
- Upholsterer
- Welder



Questions to ask your middle school student about this career cluster:

- Where do we see examples of these careers in our community?
- What personality traits would best fit this career cluster?
- What family members or friends are involved in a career in this cluster?
- What level of interest do you have in this career cluster?

8th grade Conferences

Parents of 8th graders: 8th Grade Conferences are in full swing! Please follow this link or QR code to the Sign Up Genius online registration site.

<https://shorturl.at/opqyY>

Choose a date that works for both you and your child's schedule. Questions? Call Krista Zachor at (920) 788-7905.



Is your career in Manufacturing?

We have an exciting opportunity for families to get involved with career planning. JR Gerritts is looking for parent volunteers to present their line of work to help the students gain a greater awareness of local occupations. On the dates of January 19 and May 10, parents/guest speakers

will present their occupation to 8 different groups of students for 15 minutes each. Speakers will be expected to do the following within each 15 minute rotation:

- Discuss their job description
- Present props/visuals related to their job (optional)
- Answer student

questions
If your career is in Manufacturing, and you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Bradley Demmin bdemmin@kimberly.k12.wi.us or (920) 788-7905 ext. 4103.
We are also looking for volunteers from our other Year 1 clusters. Contact Brad if interested.

KHS 2024-25 Scheduling Process

Scheduling for next school year will be starting soon! The KHS Course Book is now available on our website; [Course Book | Student Services](#). A limited supply of course books will be available for students who may not have computer access. Please reach out if you need one.

Students and parents should review the course book and available courses for the 2024-25 school year. There is a 4 year plan in Xello as well in the course book to assist students in the planning process. Please make note of prerequisite requirements when choosing courses. Listed below are important dates for completion of your student's schedule. Should you have any questions, please call Student Services at (920) 687-3024 Press #3.

**** Junior (Class of 2025) Scheduling Information ****

January 8 ~ Counselors meet with all juniors in the Auditorium to hand out scheduling materials and provide a demonstration on how to input course selections in Xello. Times listed below.

<u>A-E 7:45</u>	<u>F-Le 8:30</u>	<u>Li-Schi 9:25</u>	<u>Schm-Z 10:10</u>
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January 8 to February 12 ~ All students enter course requests into Xello. All course requests must be entered by Monday, February 12.

January 30 ~ KHS Career Planning Work Day - Students will have time to explore options, ask questions and enter requests into Xello.

February 13 ~ All current KHS student course requests are submitted into Xello.

**** Sophomore (Class of 2026) Scheduling Information ****

January 9 ~ Counselors meet with all sophomores in the Auditorium to hand out scheduling materials and provide a demonstration on how to input course selections in Xello. Times listed below.

<u>A-E 7:45</u>	<u>F-Le 8:30</u>	<u>Li-Schi 9:25</u>	<u>Schm-Z 10:10</u>
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January 9 to February 12 ~ All students enter course requests into Xello. All course requests must be entered by Monday, February 12.

January 30 ~ KHS Career Planning Work Day - Students will have time to explore options, ask questions and enter requests into Xello.

February 13 ~ All current KHS student course requests are submitted into Xello.

**** Freshmen (Class of 2027) Scheduling Information ****

January 11 ~ Counselors meet with all **freshmen** in the Auditorium to hand out scheduling materials and provide a demonstration on how to input course selections in Xello. Times are listed below:

A-E 7:45	F-Le 8:30	Li-Schi 9:25	Schm-Z 10:10
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January 11 to February 12 ~ All students work on entering course requests into Xello. All course requests must be entered by Monday, February 12.

January 30 ~ **KHS Career Planning Work Day** - Students will have time to explore options, ask questions and enter requests into Xello.

February 13 ~ All current KHS student course requests are **submitted** into Xello.

For all Current KHS Students

KHS Scheduling Help Sessions ~ Students can stop in Student Services to ask questions and get help regarding their course selections with a counselor on any of the following dates/times:

- Jan 17th ~ 7:25—8:10 AM
- Jan. 24th ~ 2:10—3:00 PM
- Jan. 31st ~ 2:10—3:00 PM
- Feb. 7th ~ 7:25—8:10 AM

**** 8th Grade (Class of 2028) Scheduling Information ****

January 23 ~ High School Counselors are at JRG and will meet with all **8th graders** to present the scheduling information. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be emailed to parents.

January 23 - February 4 ~ All students enter course requests into Xello. All course requests must be entered by Sunday, February 4.

February 5 ~ All current JRG student course requests are **submitted** into Xello. Online students can submit course requests in Xello. If there are questions, please reach out to Mr. Demmin or Ms. Diamond.

Clubs and Activities

*Sporting Events can be found on the Athletic page of this newsletter and on the [Athletic](#) calendar on the JRG website.
All other clubs and activities can be found here and will be posted on the [School Events](#) calendar*

Alliance Club—3:05-3:45 Contact: Ms. Barlow, Student Services, or Ms. Startup, rm 231
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month

Art Club—3:05-4:00 Contact: Ms. Dagesse, rm 436
December: 4, 11, 18

Computer Science Club—3:05-4:00 Contact: Ms. Knaus, rm 101
December: 4, 11, 18 January: 8, 15, 22, 29 February: 5, 12, 19, 26
March: 4, 11, 18 April: 8, 15, 22, 29 May: 6, 13, 20

Dungeons and Dragons/Chess Club—3:05-4:00 Contact: Mr. Korten Hof, rm. 126
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month

Gator Strength—3:05-4:10 Contact: Mr. Chalupny
8th Grade Boys: Mondays and Wednesdays
8th Grade Girls: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Math Olympiad—3:00-4:00 Contact: Ms. Baetke, rm 214 or Ms. Fellner, rm 216
December: 7, 21 January: 11, 25 February: 15, 22 March: 7, 21

School Store—during lunch hours Contact: Ms. Schultz, rm 235, or Ms. Benzinger, rm 120
Will be open Wednesdays during lunch and recess

Wrestling and Girls Basketball begin January 2. See page 11 for detailed information.

Boys Basketball

Games begin at 4:00 unless otherwise noted
Game order and Location Addresses can be found on the
[Athletic Page Calendar](#)

Red

December

4: at Theisen
12: at Neenah

White

December

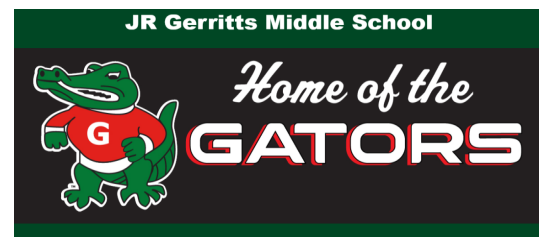
5: at Kimberly
7: at Kimberly

Please see the
[Athletic Calendar](#) on
our website for event
addresses

Our School Store Is Open!

Get ready to show your Gator pride with our latest and greatest collection of spirited gear. From classic tees to cozy hoodies, we've got something for everyone. Missed out on past Gator apparel? No worries! Dive into nostalgia with our Vintage Gator Apparel page and relive those unforgettable moments.

Visit the [School Store](#) and gear up to make a splash in style! The store can also be accessed from the main page of our website.



Athletic Corner

Sporting Events and Event Locations can be found on the [Athletic](#) calendar

Wrestling and Girls Basketball Information

All Athletes must have the following forms on file prior to Tuesday, January 2nd:

[Physical Form](#)
[Concussion/Athletic Agreement](#)

Wrestling:

The official start date for our wrestling program is Tuesday, January 2nd. Practices will be 3:15-5:00 on Monday-Thursday, and 3:15 to 4:30 on Fridays with open mat at 4:30-5:00.

Prior to the start of our season, we will be hosting some additional open mat nights:

Where: JRG wrestling room

Time: 3:30-4:30

Dates:

Thursday, Dec. 7th

Tuesday, Dec. 12th

Thursday, Dec. 14th

Tuesday, Dec 19th

Thursday, Dec. 21st

Sign up for Wrestling [here](#)

Girls Basketball:

Our girls basketball program starts Tuesday, January 2.

Practices will run daily from 3:10-4:30 for both 7th and 8th grade girls.

Sign up for girls basketball [here](#)

Please contact Ms. Hammen if you have any questions.

mhammen@kimberly.k12.wi.us

(920) 423-4106

Health Physicals and Concussion Forms

Please note that all physicals and concussion forms must be turned in prior to the 1st practice. Physicals are good for 2 years. If you are unsure of the date of your child's last physical, please call the Main Office for assistance.

The forms can be found on the Athletic tab of our website as well as here:

[Physical Form](#)

[Concussion/Code of Conduct Form](#)

Contacting Our Athletic Director, Mary Hammen

Mary Hammen, our Athletic Director retired as a teacher at the end of last year, but has agreed to continue on as Athletic Director for JRG. While she is no longer in the building full days, she is still accessible via email at mhammen@kimberly.k12.wi.us or by phone, extension 4106.



Kimberly Area School District
HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT
Grade 7-8

Dear Parent or Guardian:

It is important that our youth have knowledge about human growth and development to understand body changes, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and make healthy, responsible decisions which fit with their personal values and yours. It is important for you to be the primary source for information and education, and our schools will provide support to assist your efforts.

4 year-old-kindergarten through twelfth grade human growth and development objectives guide learning in our schools. These objectives were designed by a committee of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to be developmentally appropriate and were approved by the Board of Education. The objectives for your child's grade level are printed here along with our philosophy for your review. Your child's teachers will provide opportunities throughout the school year for your child to learn these objectives. To provide the best learning situations, we connect this information with other things about which the child is learning. Because of this, human growth and development learning may occur throughout the year when it is most appropriate, but there may be times when the learning is more focused.

Films related to the physical and emotional changes that occur with puberty are used in grades 4, 5, and 6. When the class is viewing one of these films, the teacher or counselor will notify you in advance so that you can have the opportunity to preview the film. We encourage you to take time with your child to discuss the film together after it is shown in class. This discussion provides another opportunity for you to share your values and expectations and to understand your child's perspectives. We have additional resources to help parents connect and speak with their children about human growth and development issues. For more information about available resources, speak with your child's teacher or counselor.

If you have any questions or concerns about what your child will be learning, please talk with your child's teacher or counselor. If you prefer that your child not participate in human growth and development instruction, you need to make that request in writing to the teacher or school principal in advance and an alternative educational opportunity will be provided for your child during that time. Students whose parents exempt them from instruction related to human growth and development will still receive instruction on other health-related topics such as basic hygiene and sanitation, the effects of controlled substances and alcohol on the human body, symptoms of disease and the proper care of the body. Instruction is also provided for elementary students on effective means by which students may recognize, avoid, prevent and halt physically or psychologically abusive or intrusive situations, such as child abuse, child enticement and sexual abuse.

If you would like more information about the district's health curriculum, including the complete human growth and development curriculum, or the instructional materials, please contact me at (920) 788-7900, Extension 4181.

Sincerely,
 John Schultz
 Director of Student Improvement

PHILOSOPHY

The Kimberly Area School District recognizes human growth and development as a lifelong educational process. The responsibility for this education belongs first and foremost to parents, church, and community. The district recognizes the obligation of the schools to support and supplement this aspect of education. Since students are in school for a large portion of their lives, it seems appropriate that the school offer to assist parents in these areas.

This human growth and development program has been planned with the active, constructive involvement of parents, teachers, students, community leaders, and administrators with approval by the School Board.

The Kimberly School District is committed to provide human growth and development instruction as part of a comprehensive education program. Human growth and development instruction refers to the process of growth in the intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual, and social phases of individuals and their human relations.

Human growth and development should not be an isolated special facet of education. Sequential, well-planned units appropriate for developmental needs will be integrated through the 4K-12 curriculum. Our goal is to provide accurate information in a non-threatening environment which includes dialogue between parents, students, and teachers. This accurate information will allow students and educators to use correct terminology when referring to human growth and development topics.

The Kimberly Area School District recognizes its responsibility to promote in our students positive self-concepts, healthy interpersonal relationships, and responsible decision making. This curriculum will help students examine their own attitudes and behavior in relation to the norms and values of parents, church, and community.

OBJECTIVES FOR GRADE 7

1. Apply the basic steps involved in the decision making process.
2. Recognize the alcohol and drug use can affect decision making.
3. Identify qualities/characteristics of a healthy relationship.
4. Know that family structures vary, explain ways that families change and describe the responsibilities of all family members to create social, physical and mentally healthy family members.
5. Explain the difference between acceptable, respectful physical contact and sexual harassment.
6. Know how to respond to situations involving sexual harassment or abuse.
7. Describe interrelationships of and disparities among physical, mental and social changes occurring at puberty.
8. Identify abstinence as the only responsible choice for teens to protect their social, mental and physical health.
9. Differentiate between gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.
10. Communicate respectfully with and about people of all gender identities, gender expressions and sexual orientations.

OBJECTIVES FOR GRADE 8

1. Apply the basic steps involved in the decision making process.
2. Explain qualities that make healthy relationships.
3. Identify the influence of personal values and beliefs (as well as other outside influences such as the media) that impact a healthy relationship.
4. Describe physical, mental, and social changes that occur as they mature physically and sexually through puberty.
5. Identify and explain the structure and function of male and female reproduction system.
6. Explain sexually transmitted infections, their potential impact on one's health, and prevention and treatment options.
7. Know why abstinence is the only responsible choice for teens to protect their social, mental and physical health.
8. Identify reliable community resources, including parents or other trusted adults, that they can go to for information or if they are or someone they know is being harassed, abused or assaulted.

Alcohol, Drug and Vaping Awareness

JR Gerritts and the Kimberly Area School district are dedicated to helping all students stay drug, alcohol and tobacco free. Our district website contains several valuable awareness resources to help parents and families keep kids safe from chemical use and addiction. More information can be found [here](#).

Safety Reminder For Visitors

For the safety of our students and staff, we would like to remind all parents and visitors to sign in and receive a visitor badge in our Main Office prior to entering the building. The visitor badge must be visible and worn at all times while in the building.

Thank you for your help in keeping our school a safe place!

A Reminder From Lamers Bus

Bus students may not ride on a bus that is not their designated bus route. Non-bus students may not ride on any bus route. Please see page 3 in the [Transportation Handbook](#) for details. If you have further questions, please call Lamers Bus Lines at (920) 832-8800.

Attendance Messages

Your child's safety is our top priority. For this reason, we send a message home via phone, email and text if a student has been marked absent for 2 or more periods. This is not intended to be a negative message, but rather a verification that your student is safe. At times, our voicemail system has been known to drop, or not save messages properly which may be why we try to contact you even though you have called in prior to the start of the school day.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at 788-7905.

Appointments and Forgotten Item Drop-Off

Attendance is managed through the Main Office at JRG. If your student will be arriving late to school, please call the Main Office so we can update attendance as soon as possible. We also understand that students need to leave school during the day for various reasons. **If you are aware that your student will be leaving during the day, please call or have them stop in the Main Office with a note in the morning to get a pass.** Your student's teachers are notified through Infinite Campus of any absences. If you know that someone other than yourself is picking up your student, please let the office know in advance. For safety purposes, we cannot allow a student to leave with someone other than a parent, guardian, emergency contact or an individual you have specified. A staff member will need to contact you prior to allowing entry into the building if someone other than one listed above arrives to pick up your student.

If you are dropping off a forgotten item for your student, we have a cart located in the Main Office for your convenience. Please ensure that all items are labelled clearly with your student's name. We will email the student to let them know something has arrived for them.

Thank you for your help in making JRG a safe place for our students.

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](#). 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/>

Agendas Available to Purchase

If you would like to purchase an agenda for your student, you can do so in a couple of ways:

- * Add the Agenda Fee from the optional fees dropdown menu on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal and pay online. Have your student stop in the Main Office to pick it up once paid.
- * Have your student bring \$3 to the Main Office.

Cell Phone Usage

We pride ourselves on providing a high quality learning experience for all students. To ensure optimal learning and minimal distractions, all students will be required to put their cell phones in a cell phone pocket holder in each of their classrooms or leave it in their locker. If a student needs their cell phone during class time, they must communicate and get permission from their teacher.

Students will be allowed to use their cell phones before school, during passing times, during lunch, and after school. Students who fail to comply with these expectations will have the situation addressed with administration.

No Parking in the Circle Driveway

We ask that parents **do not park or stand** in the circle driveway in front of JRG when picking up students after school.

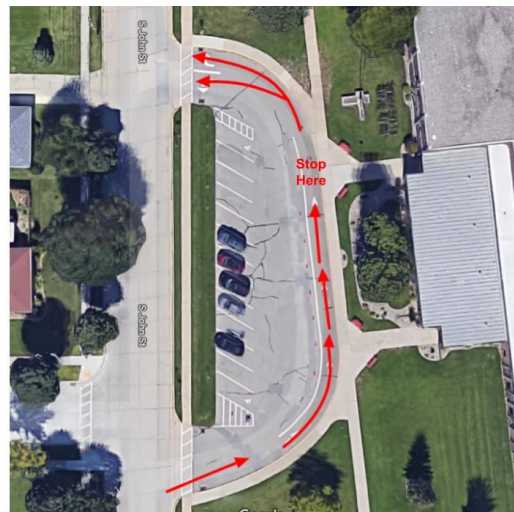
This area is intended for Emergency vehicles, deliveries, and space for students needing assistance to their parent vehicles due to medical reasons (e.g. students on crutches...).

Thank you for your help and understanding.

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.
- 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.

Safety First

Please remember to use the sidewalks when riding bikes to the tunnel under CE connecting the YMCA and US Venture. Do not ride through the YMCA parking lot or over the berm. Once on school property, students should "walk their wheels" and no longer ride their bikes, skateboards, etc.

As part of our safety preparedness, JRG staff and students regularly participate in safety drills, and in the first several weeks we practice several of those drills. Staff are trained in how to respond in each circumstance, and receive refresher training at least annually.

Drills we practice early in the school year include: Fire Drills, Severe Weather/Tornado Drills and Secure Classroom Drills.

For more information about school safety, see our Student/Parent Handbook, or feel free to contact Ryan Hermus, our building safety coordinator, or Assistant Principal, Ashley Duda if you have questions or concerns.

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.





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.

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:

STUDENT PLEDGE

- ☐ I am committed to remaining alcohol, drug and tobacco / vaping products 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 alcohol, drug and tobacco / vaping products free for me, my family and my community!

PARENT PLEDGE

- ☐ I /We support my/ our student's choice to be alcohol, drug and tobacco/vaping products free.
- ☐ I /We will support my / our student's commitment by regularly discussing their promise to remain substance free.

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!

Texting Home When Not Feeling Well

Please remind your student that they should go to the Health Room located in the Main Office if they are not feeling well. There, staff will evaluate symptoms and provide assistance as needed. If symptoms dictate, students will always be allowed to contact home.

We respectfully request that students do not text home prior to visiting the health room.

My Child Doesn't Feel Well While at School—What Should They Do?

If your child is at school and does not feel well, our health room is located in the Main Office. Students will then be evaluated by the Health Assistant or an office staff member. We ask that students not contact home on their own without first being evaluated in the health room. For most concerns, 10-15 minutes of rest helps tremendously and the student is able to return to class for the remainder of the day. All students are encouraged to carry a water bottle with them to stay hydrated throughout the day.

JRG is equipped to offer certain stock medications in pill form only. These medications include regular and extra strength acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and Benadryl. To dispense these medications to a student, we need to have a form completed by a parent indicating which medications we can provide as well as the dosage. This form was included in this year's Annual Update. If your student needs cough drops, Tums, or non-pill forms of pain relieving medications, you may provide them from home in their original containers. They will be kept in the health room for those times your student needs them.

Our main goal is to help students return to class and continue learning. If their temperature is over 100 degrees or other symptoms dictate, parents will be contacted by the health assistant, office staff, or permission will be given to the student to call.

Please take a moment to discuss this process with your student. If you have any questions about this process, please call the office at 788-7905.

Collecting Homework Due to Illness

If your student is missing school days due to illness and you would like to gather their homework, please have your student check their Google Classroom for assignments or have them email their teachers directly. Teacher email addresses consist of the teacher's first initial, last name@kimberly.k12.wi.us (eg. Joe Smith would be jsmith@kimberly.k12.wi.us).

If you expect books or paperwork to be brought to the office by your student's teachers, please call the office first to ensure the work is available.

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.

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.

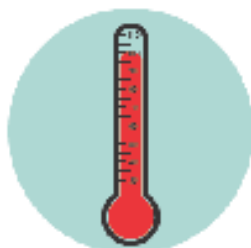
Covid Protocols

Please see the District's Covid guidelines, including information on [when to keep your child at home](#) by following [this link](#) which will take you to the District's Health Service page.

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When to Keep Your Child Home



FEVER

An oral temperature of 100.4 or higher indicates a fever. If your child has a temp of 100.4 or higher at school he/she will be sent home. Your child will be excluded from school until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducer (Tylenol or ibuprofen product).



SORE THROAT

If a fever is accompanied by a sore throat, stomach ache or headache it may be strep throat. Strep throat is diagnosed by a throat culture obtained at a medical clinic. If your child is diagnosed with strep throat, your child will be excluded from school for 24 hours after initiation of appropriate antibiotic and fever free without the use of a fever reducer (Tylenol or ibuprofen product).



VOMITING/DIARRHEA

If your child has an episode of vomiting and/or diarrhea at school, he/she will be sent home. Anyone with these symptoms will be excluded from school until symptom free for 24 hours.



COUGH

A cough may be a sign of many different illnesses. If a cough is accompanied by a fever, you should keep your child home. Any cough that lasts for more than several days should be discussed with a doctor.



SKIN LESIONS/SORES

Rashes and infected sores needed to be diagnosed by a medical provider. Many skin rashes such as impetigo, scabies, chicken pox, Fifth disease or Hand Foot and Mouth disease are very contagious. Students may return to school once the rash has been diagnosed and treated for 24 hours or cleared by a doctor. Open sores from illnesses such as chicken pox and impetigo may need to be covered at school with bandages for several days.



COVID-19

If your child is POSITIVE for COVID, keep your child home from school for 5 days after symptoms begin, and until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducer. Household members can continue to attend school but should monitor their symptoms. Masks are optional.

Resource: State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services, Childhood Communicable Disease Chart

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

A CLICKABLE COMPILATION OF RESOURCES
CREATED BY NAMI FOX VALLEY



**Support for Kids,
Teens & Young
Adults**

Compilation of information & resources intended to help young people get the mental health support they need.



NAMI Helpline

If you or someone you know needs help, contact NAMI Helpline Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-9 PM CT.

Call 1-800-950-NAMI | Text: 62640



NAMI Wisconsin: Family & Consumer Resource Guide
Guide created to help people living with mental illness, and those supporting them, navigate the mental health care system.



NAMI Fox Valley

Local NAMI affiliate offering free support groups & education classes to those living with mental illness, and

their family members; serving Calumet, Outagamie, Waupaca and northern Winnebago counties.



NAMI Basics OnDemand

A free online program for parents/caregivers of youth who are experiencing mental health symptoms. [NAMI Fox Valley](#) also offers a version of this program that includes discussion groups with other parents.



Family Resource Center

Find information to help you support children who are struggling with mental health, behavior or learning challenges.



Navigating Emotions & Behaviors

Helpful resource to better understand and navigate your child's emotions and behavior.

[MyConnectionNEW.org](#)



Network of Care for Mental/Behavioral Health

Mental health & substance use information, resources & service navigation tool for Brown, Calumet, Outagamie & Winnebago counties.



CDC Children's Mental Health

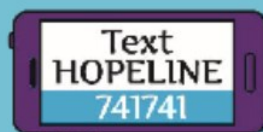
This helpful web page includes links to various articles, research studies & resources to help support mental health in childhood.



National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) - Children and Mental Health: Is this Just a Stage?

A document to better understand how to tell the difference between challenging behaviors and emotions that are a normal part of growing up and those that could be cause for concern.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE



County Crisis Lines

Outagamie: 920-832-4646
Winnebago: 920-233-7707
Calumet: 920-849-9317
Waupaca: 715-258-6300



Kimberly Area School District

425 S. Washington Street • PO Box 159 • Combined Locks, WI 54113
(920) 788-7900 • FAX (920) 788-7919 • www.kimberly.k12.wi.us



September 6, 2023

RE: Public Nature of School Events

Dear District Families:

The Kimberly Area School District strives to offer a broad array of opportunities for student enrichment. As part of this effort, students have the opportunity to engage in many activities, through both the District's regular curriculum and co-curricular offerings, which allow students to share their talents with the broader school community. Examples include concerts, theatrical performances, academic and athletic competitions, and many similar events. These events, often held on District property during or after regular school hours, are generally open to family, friends, and members of the public.

While the District takes measures to ensure the safety of its events, it does not typically regulate who may attend. Nor does the District regulate the use of photography or video/audio recording at such events. As a result, it is possible that members of the public, including media, will take photographs or recordings of those attending the events. Such photography and recordings are generally for the purposes of celebrating and/or reporting on the events. However, the District recognizes that there may be occasions when this type of attention is unwanted by some families based on safety concerns particular to their family situation, or for other reasons.

If, for any reason, you or your student have concerns regarding participation in District events because of the event's public nature, please contact your school's administration to discuss whether your student may need to opt out of participation in the event, or if there are other measures that can be taken to address your concerns.

Sincerely,

Rob DeLain
Principal, JRG Middle School

Emily Behnke
Assistant Principal, JRG Middle School

Follow JRG on Instagram, 'Like' Us on Facebook

JRG can be found on Facebook at Facebook.com/JRGerritts.
In addition, JRG is now on Instagram at JRGMSOfficial.

These resources are used to provide occasional school-wide updates and for reminders about various upcoming events. Families also find it's fun to check out the hundreds of pictures of students participating in events, activities and other learning experiences at JRG.

Additional Opportunities Available on the KASD Community Events Page

While many community opportunities are included in our weekly newsletters, additional events and opportunities are also posted on the District webpage under Community Events, or by clicking [here](#). Links to items such as Park and Rec opportunities, community dances, educational opportunities, speakers, and local festivals can be found there.

Are you on our mailing list?

We want to ensure parents of young children (age 0-5) in our District are on our mailing list, so you can receive information relative to your child's age group, such as early childhood screening information or 4K and 5K registration information. We also need to have information for all children age 0-21 for state reporting. Click on this link <https://goo.gl/DFjSne> to complete the census form, or complete and mail the census form found here <https://goo.gl/TkNvX6>. If you know of other families with children in our District that may not be in our system, please help us by sharing this information with them.

Project Starfish Intended to Help Families in Financial Need

Limited Financial Assistance is available for activities, events and programs at JRG Middle School through Project Starfish.

In partnership with U. S. Ventures, Inc., JRG is proud to Continue its participation with Project Starfish. Project Starfish provides an opportunity for students to develop a plan to volunteer within the school community and "pay it forward" in an effort to make a difference to others. This could be anything from helping clean up school property; helping in the office, weeding, or an approved project the student may self select. Participants in Project Starfish remain confidential, must demonstrate financial hardship and must complete their volunteer work prior to the activity.

Forms to participate in Project Starfish can be picked up in the Student Services office. Submission of a request does not guarantee assistance.

Family Move - Outside of the Kimberly Area School District

When a family moves outside of the Kimberly Area School District, students may continue to attend the school where they are currently enrolled if they qualify for a Tuition Waiver (obtained from the district office). Students who qualify for a Tuition Waiver are entitled to continue their enrollment through the waiver period. However, they are required to apply for Open Enrollment during the next Open Enrollment application period if they want to remain in the Kimberly Area School District after the Tuition Waiver has expired.

For additional information, please contact Christina Vander Zanden (cvanderzanden@kimberly.k12.wi.us).

Family Move - Within the Kimberly Area School District

When a family move occurs within the Kimberly Area School District, students may continue to attend the school where they are currently enrolled even though their residence has changed to another Kimberly Area School District attendance area.

Parents who wish to have their student(s) remain in the same school after a move within the school district must complete the School Request Form located on the district website under Student & Parents>Enrollment>Attendance and return it to the district office Attn: Sara Vogel.

For additional information regarding school request contact Sara Vogel at (920)423-4122.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING



SAY SOMETHING



IF YOU
See something
Read something
Hear something
Know something
Then you should
SAY SOMETHING

TELL YOUR
Parent
Teacher
Principal
School Counselor
School Secretary
Librarian
Any Trusted Adult

***Or Call 911 for
Emergencies***

We are encouraging school and community members to become the eyes and ears of the Kimberly Area School District in order to provide information that keeps our students, staff and schools safe.

It sometimes can be difficult to define:

- Take your time to pay attention to your surroundings and to the behaviors of others around you.
- Know what suspicious or concerning behaviors look like.
- Does the activity look strange to you?
- Are you worried someone you know is thinking about hurting others or themselves?

Report it, don't just repeat it.



**Kimberly Area
School District**

*See Something, Say Something® is modeled after
the Department of Homeland Security's program.*

rev: 11/6/19

Kimberly Area School District



School-Based Counseling for Students in 5K – 12th Grade

The [Kimberly Area School District](#) and [United Way's PATH \(Providing Access to Healing\) for Students](#) program are working together to provide students in the District with the opportunity to receive outpatient [mental health](#) services within their school.

New for this school year:

- Opportunity for school-based counseling services expanded to students in 5-year-old kindergarten through 12th grade.
(Previously only available for grades 7-12.)
- These services are designed to meet the needs of students and families who would otherwise be unable to access mental health therapy.



Counseling is an excellent way to:

- Learn new skills
- Develop self-confidence
- Become more aware of others' views and experiences
- Practice new behaviors
- Better understand how to deal with the problems life presents



If you are a parent and think your child may benefit, or if you are a student and feel you may benefit from counseling, you are invited to contact your [school counselor](#) for further screening.

If you have any questions about mental health resources for students, you can also contact Tim Fosshage, Director of Pupil Services, at (920) 788-7900.

Rev. 9/23/2018

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.