



# Gator News

February  
2024

## Learning, Leadership and Laughter...The JRG Journey

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

### @ A Glance

**February 9**  
No School

**February 19**  
ROCKS Roller Skating—6:00-  
8:00 PM at Skate City

**February 24**  
Vocal Solo Ensemble

**February 29**  
Last Day to [Order A Yearbook](#)

**March 2**  
Instrumental Solo Ensemble

**March 7-9**  
7:00 PM March 7-9  
2:00 PM March 9

**March 8**  
Early Release—11:20

**March 10**  
Daylight Saving Time  
Begins—turn clocks forward 1  
hour

**March 22**  
End of Quarter 3

**March 29-April 5**  
No School

**May 10**  
Early Release—11:20

**May 14**  
Band Concert  
7th Grade—6:30 PM  
8th Grade—7:30 PM

**May 20**  
Choir Concert at KHS—7:00  
PM

**May 27**  
No School

**June 4**  
8th Grade Recognition—6:00-  
8:00 PM

**June 6**  
Class Trips/Last Day of  
School  
7th Grade—Bay Beach during  
school hours  
8th Grade—Great America

"Intelligence plus character. That is the goal of true education"  
Martin Luther King, Jr

Dear Gator Families

Although some see February as the "doldrums of winter," this month always proves to be an exceptionally busy time for growing and learning at JRG. Students and staff have had an opportunity to reflect on their learning heading into our second semester to celebrate our growth and look for opportunities for improvement throughout the year. Students have a chance to learn outside of the classroom during this month's Mini-Courses. These two days of experiential learning provide unique opportunities to pursue career-based activities, trips to new places and a chance to try something new. A highlight of the year, it provides students a change to get out and see learning from a new perspective. We round out this busy month with an eye on next year, readying our 7th graders to register for 8th grade classes while our 8th graders plan for the next big step in their educational journey at Kimberly High School.

There is still plenty of our school year together, and I can not wait to see how far we all grow as learners. Please take a moment to look through our newsletter for many important items, including the dates and updates of our annual Forward exam.

I thank you again for your support for our students and staff this year. We are lucky to have you along on our learning journey. If at any time you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [rdelain@kimberly.k12.wi.us](mailto:rdelain@kimberly.k12.wi.us) or 920.788.7905.

Take care and BE KIND!  
Rob DeLain  
JRG Principal

### Computer Care and Safety

Student Chromebooks play a vital part of the JRG daily learning experience. Because of this, Chromebook care is of utmost importance so that students are able to have the devices in class to aid in their learning. It is possible that minor damage may occur due to normal use and wear, almost all of which is covered by the parent-elected insurance. Other significant damage that is caused by accidental or intentional misuse may not be covered by this insurance. Remember that these devices are the District's property, and our IT works diligently with outside vendors to make sure they are functioning every day.

Even more importantly, JRG and the Kimberly Area District invest heavily in internet safety and security to keep our kids safe. Our safety nets protect our students from harmful websites and keep our internet up and running to provide our students with a safe and secure learning experience. Students found trying to evade or dismantle the internet safety on their Chromebooks are in violation of the district's safe use policy and can be subject to consequences for their actions.

### JRG Traffic Flow

Please help us keep traffic moving so our kids get to and from school safely and efficiently! By pulling all the way up to the Main Office Doors in the morning, we can accommodate 5-6 more cars, allowing an average of 15-20 students dropped off safely every minute. Not only does this get our kids to class on time, it also helps to reduce traffic backed up on John Street.

At the end of the day, waiting can save you time! If you are able to arrive at 3:10 or a bit later, almost all traffic has left John Street, allowing you to safely pick up your child closer to school.

Thanks for helping us keep traffic moving at JRG!

### Yearbooks Now Available!

Yearbooks are now available to purchase for \$12.50 through Network Photography. You may order a Yearbook by clicking [here](#). You can also reach the online ordering site by going to [www.networkphoto.net](http://www.networkphoto.net) and selecting the FALL PREPAY tab, and then typing in the school name.

Online ordering will be available through February 29.

### 2024 JRG Spelling Bee

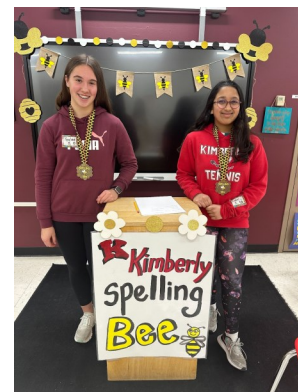
Congratulations goes out to all of our Spelling Bee Finalists who competed in this year's JRG Spelling Bee!

8th Grade Participants included: Kaylee Behnke, Kaylee Skarda, Jacob Ostermann, Ian Feucht, Owen Handschke, Alyssa White and Sophia Ricciardi .

7th Grade Participants included: Andrew Huls, Quinn Herrick, Kaashvi Kasera, Zachary Mentzel, PG Grapengieser, Addison O'Rourke, Esme Philip, William Hirst and Claire Van Schyndel.

A special congratulations goes out to our 2 finalists; Kaylee Behnke (8th grader) and Kaashvi Kasera (7th grader). Both will be advancing to the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in February!

Good luck to both participants who will be representing JRG Middle School!



### 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 March 7.

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

### Weather Cancellations and Delays

If weather conditions dictate that there will be no school or a delayed start, a decision to keep the schools closed is usually made by 6:00 a.m. Parents with students in school receive a direct call, text and/or email from our auto-call system through Infinite Campus since that is the fastest way to communicate with thousands of parents at one time.

As a reminder: If you have a new phone number or email address, please update your information in the Infinite Campus parent portal or contact your school's secretary to update the portal. Also, weather alerts go out as "General Notifications" so please make sure you have the "General Notifications" box checked when verifying your Infinite Campus communication preferences.

**WINTER IS ALMOST HERE.**  
Are your Infinite Campus settings up-to-date?

Kimberly Area School District

**General Notification:**  
Weather Alerts, School Closings,  
Food Service, School or District Messages

| Contact Information | Delivery                 | Private                  | Device                   | Emergency                | Attendance               | Messenger                | Staff                    | General                             | Food Service             | Priority                 |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Email               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Secondary           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Household           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cell Phone          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Phone         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Announcements are also sent to local T.V. and radio stations, please tune to local stations such as these rather than call the school directly: WAPL-105.7FM, WIXX-101.1FM, WHBY-1150AM, WKFX-104.9FM, WTAQ-97.5FM/1360AM, WWWX-96.9FM and WGEE-93.5FM; and WBAY-TV2, WFRV-TV5, WGBA-TV26, and WLUK-FOX11.

If other school events, such as concerts or sporting events are also cancelled because of weather, they are typically communicated through these stations as well.

The District's website and Facebook page are not our primary way to communicate school closures, so we ask parents to listen to the auto-call messages or tune in to the radio and T.V. stations listed for the timeliest updates.



## ***J.R. Gerritts Middle School***

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



Dear J.R. Gerritts Parent or Guardian:

JR Gerritts students will be participating in the Wisconsin State Forward Exam this Spring. All students will take the Language Arts and Math assessments. 8th grade students also take the Science and Social Studies Exams.

The JRG Forward Exam Schedule for the 2023 2024 School Year will be as follows:

- March 19th: 8th Grade Social Studies
- March 20th: 7th and 8th Grade Language Arts
- March 21st: 7th and 8th Grade Language Arts
- April 16th: 7th and 8th Grade Math
- April 17th: 8th Grade Science

### **NEW FOR 2023-24**

All students will have access to a Text-to-Speech feature on this year's Forward Exam. Students will need to bring in a pair of plug-in headphones or earbuds for the Forward Exam this year. This was a required school supply for the year, so please be sure your child has a pair for testing.

The results from state testing, along with local measures such as report cards, classroom assessments and teacher feedback, provide meaningful information about students' academic achievement to parents, students, teachers and the school district.

Additional information about the Forward Exam can be found in the accompanying resource. If you have questions about the Forward Exam, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Rob DeLain - JRG Principal





# Forward Exam

## 2023-24 Information for Families

### What is the Wisconsin Forward Exam?

The Wisconsin Forward Exam is designed to gauge how well students are doing in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. These standards outline what students should know and be able to do in order to be college and career ready. The Forward Exam is administered online in the spring of each school year for students in:

- grades 3-8 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics,
- grades 4 and 8 in science, and
- grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies.

Accommodations and supports for students with disabilities and English learners are built into the system so that the progress of students can be accurately measured.



### What does this mean for my child?

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment that gauges your child's achievement in the content areas tested in relation to grade-level standards. It provides a broad measure of achievement that should be used along with

local measures such as report cards, school-wide assessments, and other information about your child's progress in school.

### When does the Forward Exam take place?

The Forward Exam will be given in schools between March 18 and April 26, 2024. Schools are permitted to select their own testing dates within this window.



The estimated time for test administration in each grade is approximately:

- 115 minutes for ELA,
- 90-115 minutes for mathematics,
- 105 minutes for science, and
- 70 minutes for social studies.

These estimated times are for the purpose of scheduling, as the **Forward Exam is not a timed test**. It is important to note that students may take more time or less time to complete the test based on effort and ability levels.

### What type of scores will be provided?

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment that provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Students receive a score for each content area in which they are tested. These scores will be associated with one of four performance levels that defines the student's understanding and ability to apply grade-level knowledge and skills.



### Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

The Forward Exam Practice Test provides student, families, and educators, with a sample of the type of content and questions students will encounter on the Forward Exam. It also allows students to familiarize themselves with the question formats and online testing platform including the tools available to them



during testing. The Practice Test is not scored and does not cover the full range of content on the exam. The Practice Test is approximately two-thirds the length of the actual Forward Exam and is intended to provide all students with the opportunity to become comfortable with the Forward Exam platform prior to testing.

The Forward Exam Practice Test is available for student use online, in the classroom or at home at <http://doi.wi.gov/assessment/forward/sample-items>.

For more information about the Forward Exam contact the Office of Educational Accountability at [osamail@doi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@doi.wi.gov) or visit <https://doi.wi.gov/assessment/forward>.

# ATODA News



Volume 1, Issue 2

*This quarter's focus*

February 2024

## JRG ROCKS

Learning about alternatives to using these substances is also a focus of our ROCKS (Recognizing Our Committed Kids) program. ROCKS events help to show students that there are many fun activities that our students can take part in that do not involve drugs and alcohol. These events can be a great way for our students to take part in healthy activities while also making connections with others. Please stay tuned to Gator News for upcoming ROCKS events.

### Side Effects: Parents Might Notice:

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Impacts immune system which makes people more susceptible to illness | Poor/failing grades            |
|  | Increased absences             |
|  | Slurred speech                 |
| Increased risk of other drug usage                                   | Loss of coordination           |
|  | Mood changes                   |
| Difficulty focusing on tasks   | Rebelling against family rules |
| Trouble sleeping   | "Nothing matters" mindset      |
| Increased impulsive behaviors  |                                |

### What students can do when they hear about others drinking alcohol

Report to school administration or Police School Liaison Officer Stahmann – we look out for each other's safety and well being at JRG. Make sure to do your part to keep our school and community safe and healthy.

## Teaching Students About The Risks of Alcohol, Nicotine and Other Drug Abuse

Each quarter during TLC, students learn about a topic related to Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse (ATODA) as a way to bring awareness to the risks of using harmful substances. The 2nd mini-lesson took place in January and covered the topic of alcohol. With the support of families, we can help build healthy habits within our school and our community. An overview of the topics covered is provided below. You can also review these [Tips for Talking to your Child](#) about alcohol.

### Information about Alcohol

- Alcohol is a depressant which means that it slows down the brain
- Impacts the way that a person is able to speak, think, and see things as they are
- The more alcohol that is consumed, the more it will impact body functioning
- Correlation with a higher risk of suicide

### For More Information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pi99ooRvIRU>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/alcohol.html>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you/parent-resources/how-tell-if-your-child-drinking-alcohol>



# JRG Career Planning



Volume 1, Issue 6

February 2024

## 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 2023-2025 Career Cluster Plan |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   | Year 1                                   | Year 2  |
| SEPT  | Hospitality & Tourism                    | Health Sciences                                 |
| 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:*

## Marketing

A sampling of careers included in this cluster:

- Advertising Copywriter
- Airline Customer Service Agent
- Antique Dealer
- Communications Specialist
- Desktop Publisher
- Media Buyer
- Mortgage Broker
- Public Relations Specialist
- Real Estate Agent
- Sports Marketer
- Telemarketer

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?



## Is your career in Marketing?

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 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 Marketing and you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Bradley Demmin [bdemmin@kimberly.k12.wi.us](mailto: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.



# ROCKS Roller Skating!

Recognizing our Committed KidS  
To Keep JRG Drug and Alcohol Free



## Join us for our February ROCKS event



**Where:** Skate City: 708 S Railroad St, Kimberly, WI 54136

**When:** Monday, February 19, 2024

**Time:** 6:00-8:00 p.m.

- Please drop students at Skate City starting at 5:45 pm.
- Rental skates will be available. Students can bring skates, but the price will be the same.
- Please pick up students at Skate City at 8:00 pm.

Concessions will be available for purchase.

***Students are encouraged to eat dinner BEFORE the event.***

## The cost is \$10 for two hours of skating

**\*\* 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, January 29th at 7:30 a.m.  
until Wednesday, February 13th at 11:59 pm OR SOLD OUT.**

## Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jrg-rocks-skate-city-tickets-807707955237?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.





## ***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!



# Home of the GATORS

## SHOW YOUR GATOR PRIDE

Display your Gator enthusiasm with our newest and most impressive range of spirited merchandise. Whether you prefer timeless tees or comfy hoodies, there's something for every fan. Explore the [Gator Store](#) and equip yourself to make a stylish statement!

All proceeds contribute to funding student activities at the school.

2 DESIGNS

Nike Ladies Legend Tee  
\$31.00

2 DESIGNS

Alpha Hoodie - 1370428  
Under Armour Ladies Storm Armour  
Starting At \$55.00

2 DESIGNS

Ivy League Fannel Neck

2 DESIGNS

SanMar 181253  
Sport-Tek® Ladies 1/4-Zip Sweatshirt  
\$42.00

# 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**  
February: 12, 19, 26      March: 4, 11, 18      April: 8, 15, 22, 29      May: 6, 13

**Computer Science Club—3:05-4:00**      **Contact: Ms. Knaus, rm 101**  
February: 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. Kortenhof, rm. 126**  
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month

**Forensics—3:00-4:00**      **Contact: Ms. Moritz, rm 224 or Ms. Scherer, rm 130**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays January 16-February 20  
Meet: February 19—3:45-6:30 pm Little Chute Middle School

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

**Junk Box Wars—3:00-4:00**      **Contact: Mr. Jansen, rm 217**  
February: 12, 13, 20, 26, 27      March: 4, 5, 11, 12

**Math Olympiad—3:00-4:00**      **Contact: Ms. Baetke, rm 214 or Ms. Fellner, rm 216**  
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

**Ski Club—4:30-10:00**      **Contact: Mr. Hank (8th grade), Ms. Arndt (7th grade)**  
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: February: 22  
7th Grade Dates: 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.



# Athletic Corner

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

## **Girls Basketball—Team White**

Games begin at 4:00 pm unless noted

### **February**

**12:** at Kimberly

**13:** at Kimberly

## **Girls Basketball—Team Red**

Games begin at 4:00 pm unless noted

### **February**

**8:** at Kimberly

**12:** at Menasha (7th grade at 4:00; 8th grade at 5:15)

**13:** at Kaukauna

## **Wrestling**

### **February**

**8:** at Freedom—4:15 pm

**13:** at Madison Middle School—4:45 pm

**20:** at Kaleidoscope—4:45 pm

**27:** at Vel Phillips—4:15 pm

### **March**

**2:** at Appleton North Invite—8:30 am

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

## **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](mailto:mhammen@kimberly.k12.wi.us) or by phone, extension 4106.

# Boys VOLLEYBALL

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

JOIN THE

MOMENTUM



## KHS Boys Volleyball Announces Annual Youth League

The annual boys volleyball youth league will begin soon at JRG in Kimberly. This is for boys in 7th or 8th grade in the area. We will practice at least once per week with games 1 or 2 times per week. Games are in the Fox Valley. We will play against teams from Appleton, Kaukauna, Fond du Lac, Neenah and Green Bay. The league will end with a tournament.

All are welcome! It does not matter if you have never played volleyball before. This is an inclusive sport and we will have a lot of fun while teaching the skills. It also does not matter if you can't make it to every practice/game.

Led by the high school boys volleyball coaching staff, the league will also feature the high school players who will be there to coach and teach the skills. The Kimberly Boys Volleyball Varsity team recently made their 4th trip to the WIAA State Tournament in the Fall 2023 (see photo above...sectional final championship). They made it to the Final Four with a thrilling come from behind victory in a quarterfinal match at the Resch Center in Green Bay. Winning that thrilling match in the 5th decisive game! EVERY varsity player on this incredible team participated in our Middle School program when they were in 7th/ 8th grade. A tradition like no other!



**2019 & 2020 WIAA Boys  
Volleyball State Champions!**

**2018 WIAA State Runner-Ups**

**2023 WIAA State Final Four**

## Contact Info

KHS Head Boys Volleyball Coach:  
Matt Seidl, 920-716-0344  
mseidl22@gmail.com

First practice & parent meeting:  
Sunday, Feb. 18th 6-7:30pm  
At JRG in Kimberly

Sign up on Feb. 18th or contact Coach Seidl directly.

League runs until Tuesday, March 20th. Tournament is Sunday, March 24th.

Cost: \$20 (receive t-shirt jersey)

# January Food Service Newsletter



## Trading Card Tuesdays

Every Tuesday in January, our Elementary School cafeterias are handing out recipe "Trading Cards" featuring recipes to help us feel Confident, Strong, Alert, Calm, Smart and Happy. There are over 36 cards to collect. Trading Card Tuesdays have been so successful, we will be continuing them into February & March!



MIRANDA PRILAND, RD  
DIRECTOR OF DINING SERVICES  
920-687-3024 OPTION 5  
mpriland@kimberly.k12.wi.us



## Mood Boost: Feed Your Mood

Designed to help students make the connection between what they eat and how they feel, Mood Boost brings new menu items, samples, and "Moodie" characters into our Elementary & Intermediate cafeterias.

In this issue:

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**What's New in your Schools?**

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**Better Together: Team Member Spotlight**

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**Events to Look Forward to this Month**



**chartwells**  
making us happy & healthy



# Global Eats



## This Month's Stop: Mexico

Secondary Schools are getting a taste of Mexico this month with menu offerings including:

- BBQ Brisket Tostada with Queso Blanco
- Chicken Pozole Soup with Fritos
- Pork Carnitas Quesadilla
- Huevos Rancheros Taco

Our next stops for Global Eats include The Caribbean in March and Korea in April.



Events to look forward to

**Tuesdays in February & March:**

Trading Card Tuesdays: Mood Boost Recipe cards handed out to all hot lunch students at Elementary schools

**February 5th:**

Lucky Tray Day: Elementary & Intermediate Schools

**February 27th:**

National Strawberry Day: Strawberry Milk offered as additional milk option at all schools



**Team Member Spotlight:**

**Ria Mengedoht,**

Food Service Worker/Dishwasher,  
Kimberly High School

**Hometown:** Neenah, WI

**Favorite Food:** Vietnamese Pho

**Length of Service:** 2 years

**Fun Fact:** Ria plays the ukulele and bass guitar.

**Favorite activity at KHS:**

Ria enjoys setting up and packaging Staff Wellness meals.

**What do I like about working with Chartwells?:**

Ria enjoys the work/life balance working at KHS.

### **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.





**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**

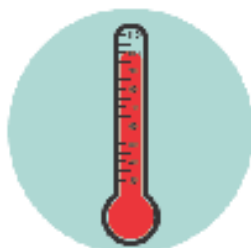
Please be aware that emergency medications that are provided for use during the school day will not be accessible after school hours. Parents and students plan ahead to have emergency medication available during after school activities such as clubs and sports. If an emergency arises and a student does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



**Child Mind  
Institute**

## 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](#)



Connect to **LOCAL**  
mental health  
services & supports

## 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

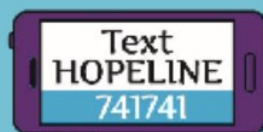
This helpful web page includes links to various articles, research studies & resources to help support mental health in childhood.



## 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



***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](mailto: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](mailto:homeless@serve.org) \* [www.serve.org/nche](http://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](http://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.