Kimberly Area School District

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NEWS RELEASE
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HACKAppleton Teams from KHS Bring Home Second and Third Place

Kimberly, Wis. – June 3, 2019 – A team from Kimberly High School (KHS) brought home second place at the

HACKAppleton student competition. Students Sam Haase, JeanMarie Lorentz, Courtney Quesnell, Tatum

Schwobe and Ethan Sommer collaborated to create a technological feature that a business could use to enhance

their operations. Another KHS team, comprised of Jacob Farrell, Ethan Newlin and Issac Yang, earned third

place at the competition.

During the six-hour hackathon event, competitors had
to develop a program for a business scenario. Teams
had to create a project proposal that described their
solution and goals for the business. Students also had to
code a portion of their proposed project. Throughout
the competition, students could ask for advice from the
many local, national and international experts in
attendance.

The Kimberly HACKAppleton Team that earned
second place at the competition, pictured left to right:
Courtney Quesnell, Tatum Schwobe, Sam Haase,
JeanMarie Lorentz and Ethan Sommer.

The second place KHS team chose Kwik Trip as their business to work on. The team divided up the work with

Haase, Lorentz, Schwobe and Quesnell taking one aspect of the project. Sommer created a second program that

was incorporated into the first one. "Our idea is a way to search for Kwik Trips based on what items you are

looking for," said Sam Haase. "We created an app that lets you create an online order for the food that you want from Kwik Trip. It would tell you when it was ready and where to park as well."

At the event, the students learned what a hackathon is, how to work with problem statements and a bit about the technologies they were going to use. "It uses a database on the backend that holds all the information and the database can be queried through an API (application programming interface) that the frontend website uses," said Haase. "We did this using just JavaScript."

After the winners were announced, the top three teams gave a five-minute presentation of their projects to the attendees. "We got to meet many other people from other schools and people that have made a living out of this," said Haase. "As a school, we aren't seen for our computer program, but I think that it's important that we show that not only do we have athletics but we also are able to learn and use that knowledge in the real world."

Another aspect that Haase mentioned is how there are fewer women in the coding world than men. "As a team, we decided that we would change that, four of us were girls," said Haase. Matt Hoh, a computer science teacher at Kimberly High School, believes there were about half a dozen female students competing at the hackathon and that four of them were on this KHS team. "Overall in IT related fields, there is a drive to get more female participation, and the fact that Kimberly was represented so well by a group with many females is a step in the right direction for growing an interest here at Kimberly High School and hopefully around the Fox Valley," said Hoh.

All five members of the second place team are taking Advanced Placement Computer Science Principals. "It is outstanding that we had two groups of students willing to take a risk and try the hackathon, and they were rewarded for their efforts by placing very high in the competition," said Hoh. "We went just to have a good time and hang out with friends. We made plans to celebrate a loss with Panera afterwards," said Haase. "What we didn't expect, though, was winning."

HACKAppleton is organized by the [Appleton Youth Education Initiative](), a student-driven non-profit organization, and [Microsoft](). This hackathon was open to anyone enrolled in a Wisconsin middle or high school. The speaker presentations at the end of the event were open to members of the public.

Event sponsors covered the cost so there was no charge to the students to participate. This event provided students interested in computer science with an opportunity to experience working with a team, developing technical practice and a chance to engage with local and international leaders in technology.

About the Kimberly Area School District

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,000 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit [www.kimberly.k12.wi.us]().

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