



Gator Bytes

May 20
2020

Learning, Leadership and Laughter...The JRG Journey

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

School Closure, Returning Student's Personal Belongings, And Other Helpful Information

As I'm sure you are aware, all Kimberly schools and school grounds will remain closed through the end of the school year. As much as we miss our students, we must follow state and local guidelines and continue to maintain a "no contact" environment for everyone's health and safety. As we continue our journey toward the end of the school year, here are some important updates. Some of them are also mentioned in last week's WJRG News [video](#).

8th Grade Recognition

One of the hardest parts of school closure is not being able to say goodbye to our amazing 8th graders in person, including during our annual 8th Grade Recognition celebration. This year, we are creating a video to share with our 8th graders and their families. While it's not the same as if we could all gather together, it will give us a chance to recognize and celebrate our departing students. We plan to share that video with families on June 2.

We will also be mailing home our 8th grade recognition certificates and a coupon for a small treat to all 8th graders during the last week of school.

Summer School

Summer school classes will be held virtually and you will need to re-register for certain classes. Please click [here](#) for more information on virtual classes and to register. The district is hoping to hold courses such as band and sports camps as scheduled and you do not need to re-register for those courses.

Delivery of Student Belongings

Beginning on June 1 and continuing through June 3, Lamers Bus Lines will be delivering student belongings to student homes between 9am and 3pm. Items will be dropped off on the porch or close to the main entrance, similar to the process used by package delivery companies like UPS or Fed Ex. District and Lamers staff assisting with the drop-offs will have PPE gear including masks and gloves and will not be interacting with students for safety reasons. More details will be shared prior to delivery.

Yearbooks and Track Apparel

If you purchased a yearbook or track apparel for your student, it will be included in the bag containing your student's belongings.

Gym Lockers

Gym lockers are shared by two or three students at JRG, and it is therefore challenging to identify which items belong to specific students. As our plans progress, we will probably be asking parents whether there are specific items from their child's gym locker that they would like returned at the end of the year. Otherwise, the plan will be to hang on to those items until a future date when students could claim them in person.

If You Will Be Enrolling In Another School District

We are creating a process for returning district-owned materials for students who are leaving the district. If your family will be leaving the district, please contact us so we can be sure to keep you informed as the process is developed.

If You Will Be Continuing in the Kimberly Area School District

For now, we are asking families to hold on to district-owned materials (Chromebooks, textbooks, library books, etc.) until a future date when we can arrange for those materials to be returned. Textbooks and library materials that were in lockers have been removed and will remain at JRG. For district-owned band instruments, we will ask current 7th graders to keep their instrument over the summer. We are developing a process for parents of 8th graders who have district-owned instruments to drop those off at school. Mr. Hietpas and Mr. O'Donnell will be contacting those families soon.



KHS Shine Your Light Event

On May 27th, Kimberly High School will be lighting up portions of our buildings and grounds to honor our students' contributions and achievements. Additionally, it's a way in which we hope to demonstrate solidarity as a school and community. We have chosen the evening of the 27th, as this is the date of our Senior Awards Night. It's one more way we can symbolically acknowledge the contributions of this class.

The following locations will be lit up from 8:20 PM to 10:20 PM.

- A special light display at KHS
- KHS LMC and school hallways
- Sunset Park Fields
- Papermaker Stadium
- Papermaker Pitch

We welcome families to drive to the designated locations. However, there will be no formal route or parade-like event. Please practice social distancing guidelines, as the health and safety of everyone is our top priority.

We encourage our community to leave their lights on that night to help us recognize the contributions of our students, staff, and school district.



8th Grade Thank You Notes To Teachers

At the end of each school year, 8th grade students take time to write thank you notes to their teachers. Under normal circumstances, this is done as a group during the school day. In these interesting times, we will be sending out a link to all 8th grade students for them to submit their notes of thanks electronically. Please look for this link in the coming weeks.

Food Service Will Not Be Available on Monday, May 25

The District Food Service Program will not be available on Monday, May 25 due to Memorial Day. Additional food will be provided during pickup on Friday, May 22 to cover the holiday weekend.

Fall Sports Meeting for Incoming Freshman

The Kimberly High School Fall Sports Meeting that was scheduled for May 31 at the High School has been modified for this year. There will now be pre-recorded meetings sent directly to athletes and parents via email. If you (athlete), or your son or daughter is interested in participating in a fall sport as a freshman, please email Marsha Van Hout at mvanhout@kimberly.k12.wi.us with which sport(s) you are interested in. Your information will then be passed on to the head coaches of each sport and you will be put on their email list. **They will include you when they send out links to their Fall Sport Meeting.** Please indicate your fall interests as soon as possible.

FALL SPORT OFFERINGS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Cross Country (girls and boys) | • Girls Swim & Dive |
| • Football | • Girls Tennis |
| • Girls Golf | • Boys Volleyball |
| • Boys Soccer | • Girls Volleyball |

Spring Musical Ticket Refund Information

Dear Friends of JRG Theatre,

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has caused professional and amateur arts organizations across the country to cancel upcoming productions. As we're sure you are aware, Governor Tony Evers ordered all Wisconsin schools to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year on April 16. This means that all Kimberly Area School District sporting events, concerts, and class trips have been canceled and will not be rescheduled. This also means that our production of "James and the Giant Peach Jr.", originally set for March 19-21, has been officially cancelled.

As ticket holders, you are entitled to a refund on any ticket(s) you have purchased. Please complete [THIS FORM](#) in order to request a refund. You can also complete this form should you wish to donate your ticket purchase(s) to JRG Theatre.

Please complete this form by FRIDAY, MAY 29. Because we will need to finalize our account status with Showtix4U, we will not be able to issue refunds after May 29. So, please be sure to complete the form before that deadline!

Also, please complete ONE FORM PER LAST NAME ASSOCIATED WITH EACH TICKET ORDER.

Please keep in mind that ShowTix4U fees are non-refundable. Therefore, we will only be able to refund the face value of each ticket purchased (\$8/ticket). Also, please be aware that it can take 5-10 business days after your refund request is processed for the refund to appear on your bank/credit card statement.

We are grateful for your understanding, patience, and support of the arts at JRG! If you have any questions, please contact John Popke (jpopke@kimberly.k12.wi.us).

Thank you,
Eric Leih, Melissa Gerhartz, & John Popke
Production Team -- "James and the Giant Peach"

Chromebook and Technology Assistance and Chromebook Repair Process

Thank you for your patience and support as we transition to the world of online learning. We are "here" in the virtual, online sense of that word, to continue to support your child's learning and social-emotional needs. Please reach out to us with questions or concerns.

If your child is unsure of how to use an app or Chromebook feature, they should contact their teacher. If you are experiencing an issue with a district-owned device, please contact your child's teacher and they will inform the proper department for assistance.

Our IT department will contact families with next steps after a teacher has informed them of the issue. Devices can be exchanged:

Mondays and Wednesdays - 10AM - 2PM and Fridays 7AM - 11AM. Please use the circle drive JRG Main Entrance off of John Street for drive through service.

If you have specific questions about the repair process, please contact JRG at 788-7905 or jrg@kimberly.k12.wi.us.

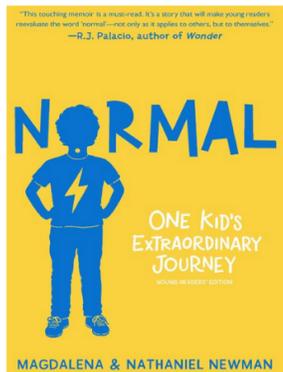
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WHAT'S NEW IN THE JRG LMC



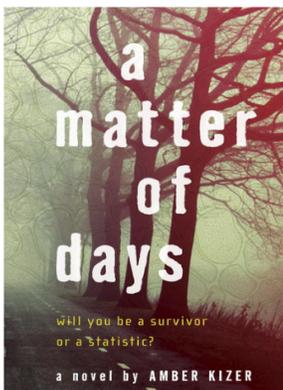
EVERY OTHER WEEKEND BY ABIGAIL JOHNSON

Heartbreak brought them together...will love tear them apart? Adam's life used to be awesome. Straight As, close friends and a perfect home life. Then his oldest brother died. Now his mom cries constantly, he and his middle brother can't talk without fighting, and the father he always admired moved out when they needed him most. Aspiring director Jolene's life is nothing like the movies she loves—not the happy ones anyway. With her divorced parents at each other's throats and using her as a pawn, no amount of mental re-editing will give her the love she's starving for. Forced to spend every other weekend in the same apartment building, the boy who thinks forgiveness makes him weak and the girl who thinks love is for fools begin an unlikely friendship. The weekends he dreaded and she endured quickly become the best part of their lives. Have Jolene and Adam found something real? Or is their connection doomed from the start? They'll find out...every other weekend.



NORMAL: ONE KID'S EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY BY MAGDALENA AND NATHANIEL NEWMAN

Normal. Who is to say what this word means? For Magda Newman, it was a goal. She wanted her son Nathaniel to be able to play on the playground, swim at the beach, enjoy the moments his friends took for granted. But Nathaniel's severe Treacher Collins syndrome—a craniofacial condition—meant that other concerns came first. Could he eat without the aid of a gastrointestinal tube? Could he hear? Would he ever be able to breathe effortlessly? But Nathaniel looks at "normal" from a completely different perspective. In this uplifting and humorous memoir that includes black-and-white comic illustrations, mother and son tell the story of his growing up—from facing sixty-seven surgeries before the age of fifteen, to making friends, moving across the country, and persevering through hardships. How they tackle extraordinary circumstances with love and resilience is a true testament to Magda and Nathaniel's family, and to families everywhere who quietly but courageously persist.



A MATTER OF DAYS BY AMBER KIZER

Their new reality begins in just a matter of days. On Day 56 of the Blustar Pandemic, sixteen-year-old Nadia's mother dies, leaving Nadia to fend for herself and her younger brother, Rabbit. Both have been immunized against the virus, but they can't be protected from what comes next. Their father taught them to "be the cockroach"—to adapt to and survive whatever comes their way. And that's their mission. Facing a lawless world of destruction and deprivation, Nadia and Rabbit drive from Seattle to their grandfather's compound in West Virginia. The illness, fatigue, and hunger they endure along the way will all be worth it once they reach the compound. Unless no one is waiting for them...

THESE THREE E-BOOK TITLES (AND MORE!) CAN BE ACCESSED AT WSDLCWI.LIBRARYRESERVE.COM OR ON THE SORA APP. USE YOUR KASD USERNAME AND PASSWORD (SAME AS YOUR CHROMEBOOK)



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- Tap **Open Book** or **Open Audiobook** to read or listen to the book.
- Tap **Options** to renew or return the book, get to your notes and highlights, and more.

Supporting Student's Social and Emotional Wellbeing While School Is Closed

While school closure is a necessary response to the COVID-19 virus, it will be a scary, isolating or frustrating time for some of our students. In addition, life doesn't stop just because school is closed, and students might want support from their counselor as events occur at home, in the community, or with friends. The information below will guide you in accessing support for your student, whether from their school counselor or from other sources.

- **How to contact your counselor while school is closed**

- Parents or students can email or leave a voice message on their school phone.

Counselors will be checking their voice messages and will be able to respond either via email or phone

- Brad Demmin, 7th grade counselor 920-423-4103, bdemmin@kimberly.k12.wi.us
- Shannon Steif, 8th grade counselor 920-423-4156, ssteif@kimberly.k12.wi.us

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- **Student Services Google Classroom**

- Students can meet with a counselor via video chat through Google Hangouts. They have been provided information on how to sign up for meeting times as well as how to Google Chat through their Student Services Google Classroom.

- **Immediate Assistance In A Crisis**

- If you are in need of immediate assistance and are concerned that your child is at risk for harming themselves or is suicidal

- Outagamie County Crisis: 920-832-4646
- Calumet County Crisis: 920-849-9317
- Winnebago County Crisis: 920-722-7707
- Call 911

- **Hopeline**

- Text "Hopeline" to 741741
- If a student is struggling, wants to talk with someone, is having suicidal thoughts, feeling hopeless, helpless, anxious or depressed. The Hopeline might be a good place to connect with someone that can help. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **Additional Mental Health Resources**

- [KASD Mental Health Resources](#)
- Despite the school shutdown, it is still important that our JRG students are supported in an appropriate manner. PATH counseling referrals are still being accepted and sessions are being conducted virtually. Please see the PATH flyer on the next page if you are interested in PATH services. Please contact Brad Demmin (bdemmin@kimberly.k12.wi.us) or Shannon Steif (ssteif@kimberly.k12.wi.us) with further questions.

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. 9/25/2018



SCHOOL CLOSURE MEAL PROGRAM LUNCH AND BREAKFAST

Kimberly Area School District will provide meals to all children during school closure. Meals are free to all children 18 years or younger. Children must be present to receive a meal.



WHO: Children 18 years or younger

WHAT: Lunch and an optional breakfast for the following day

WHEN: Starting Wednesday, March 18 until further notice. **Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

HOW: Pick up or drive up

WHERE: Pick up locations include Kimberly High School and Westside Elementary. See locations below

Westside Elementary School
746 W. Third Street
Kimberly, WI 54136
Front Door Pick up

Kimberly High School
1662 E. Kennedy Avenue
Kimberly, WI 54136
Front Door Pick up