



Gator News

May 5
2021

Learning, Leadership and Laughter...The JRG Journey

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

JRG At A Glance

May 10-13

Wrestling Camp
7th Grade

Book Fair

May 10

Speed and Strength
Begins

May 14

Early Release—11:20

May 27

All Library Materials
Due

May 28

Bike to School Day

May 31

Memorial Day—No
school

June 2

7th Grade
Chromebook
Collection

June 3

Last Day of School

JRG Families,

Welcome to a busy month of May at JRG! By the time you read this, we will have four weeks of learning left in what has been a challenging and rewarding school year. We are so proud of your children for their learning and growth this year, as well as their flexibility and willingness to roll with all of the changes and restrictions brought on by COVID. In the end, working with your kids every day in person has been such a positive experience for everyone. Thanks for your support! This week is also Teacher Appreciation Week, and I'd encourage you to take a moment to thank a teacher or staff member who has made a difference in your child's life this year.

As I mentioned, May and the first week of June are busy times. Here are a few of the highlights:

- The week of May 17 brings the return of in-person band and choir concerts. You'll receive more information from your child's band or choir teacher, but please know that seating is limited and we won't be able to accommodate everyone. The concerts will be recorded and shared with students through Google Classroom for those who can't attend or have other family members who would like to watch the performances.
- Spring is also assessment season. We have finished Forward testing, and are in the midst of our final MAP testing of the school year. We will mail a MAP report to parents in June, and more information on MAP testing is available later in this newsletter.
- Due to COVID risk mitigation and spacing needs, our end of the school year celebrations will look a bit different this year, but our teachers have collaborated on a plan to provide opportunities for closure and having a little fun to end the year. Here are the highlights:
 - * 8th Grade Recognition celebrations will be held by team in our large gym on the morning of Thursday, June 3. We don't have space for families to attend, but we will record and share the celebrations with our families. It's an opportunity for us to recognize every 8th grader for their contributions to a historic school year.
 - * Celebration activities including a Gator Olympics event and yearbook signing will also take place on June 3, replacing our usual class trips.
- Our various sports and clubs will also be wrapping up this month. We are grateful that we were able to provide those offerings to students this year and look forward to expanding those offerings next year as circumstances permit.

When I reflect back on where we were a year ago (planning for a recorded 8th grade recognition, seeing students through a camera, dropping off teacher appreciation yard signs to a staff working at home, etc.), it reinforces how grateful we are for the time we have spent in person with our students. It's an experience that all of us - teachers, kids, and families - can look back on with pride, as we also look forward to the exciting opportunities in the future.

Mr. Brinkmann, Principal

End Of Year Chromebook Collection—7th Grade

All 7th Grade Chromebooks, cases, chargers and headsets will be collected on Wednesday, June 2nd. Please make note of any problems or issues with your student's Chromebook so repairs can be made over the summer months. Chromebooks will be returned to students in the fall.

The final process for 8th grade Chromebooks will be sent out in the coming weeks.



Math Is Everywhere!

Congratulations to Mrs. Johnson, 7th grade math teacher for recently being recognized for her love of math and amazing ability to memorize pi! On a recent world-wide competition sponsored by www.pi-world-ranking-list.com, Mrs. Johnson was able to recite, by memory, pi to the 668 digit in 5 minutes! She now ranks #100 in the USA and #257 in the entire world.

Congrats, Mrs. Johnson - *math is everywhere!!*

Congratulations Laurel Golson!

8th grader, Laurel Golson, won the Delta Kappa Gamma Society Wisconsin State Organization's Annual Mary Jo Netteheim Memorial Literary and Illustrator Competition. She wrote and illustrated a 1000 word story titled, "Reflections."

Congratulations to Laurel on her award-winning story!!!



Pop Tab Fundraiser—Thank You!

JRG 8th grader Connor Lindberg coordinated a pop tab collection drive at schools across the district that raised over \$500 for the Ronald Mc Donald House of Wisconsin, a great example of his drive and community service mindset.

Great job, Connor! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Bike To School, May 28

May is Bike Safety Month, and JRG is excited to collaborate with The Safe Routes to School program for our annual Bike to School Day Event! There will be a drawing for prizes for all who wear helmets while participating! Bike to School Day will be held on May 28th. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Sonya Wheat in Student Services: swheat@kimberly.k12.wi.us or (920) 788-7905 x21179.

7th Grade Health Presentation Helps Students Understand Sexual Harassment

For the past several years, JRG has hosted a presentation by the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of the Fox Cities (<http://www.saccfoxcities.org>) in our 7th Grade Health classes. This quarter, the presentation will occur on Wednesday, May 26. The presenter helps students to understand and define sexual harassment, and leads a discussion on how harassment can affect a person's health.

This presentation covers Learning Target #5 of our Human Growth and Development Unit. (Explain the difference between acceptable, respectful physical contact and sexual harassment). If you have questions or concerns about this presentation, please feel free to contact Ms. Berger.

Remote Learning Reminders

You may be aware that if a student is required to quarantine, and can't come to school, they are asked to continue learning and join their classes via Google Classroom and Google Meet. If your child is required to be in quarantine but is not ill, we'll let you know when remote learning is starting. The basic expectations are:

1. Join the Google Meet via the link in each of your classes Google Classrooms following your daily schedule (join the Classroom at the time your class occurs during the day).
2. Check for and complete the assignments in Google Classroom
3. Check your email each day
4. Ask your teacher questions via the chat feature in Google Meet, or email them.
 - A. Be patient, it may take the teacher a moment to get back to you.
 - B. If you have any questions or concerns about the lesson (volume of recording, unclear on the assignment, etc.) contact the teacher immediately

Remote Learning **is not** used for shorter absences, like a sick day, or for other types of absences like a vacation. We only use the remote learning plan when a student is home and healthy, but is not allowed to come to school. If your student will be absent for other reasons, they can still check Google Classroom if they are well, but won't have the option to join via Google Meet.

As always, but probably even more important this year - if your child is not feeling well, keep them home. See the district health screening and other information later in this newsletter. By working together, we'll be able to stay open and keep learning.

COME TO OUR

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!

May 10-14

Dates

During The School Day

Times

JRG Library

Place

All purchases benefit our school!



NWEA® MAP® Measures of Academic Progress Information Sheet

Near the end of the school year, parents will receive their student's MAP results. Those results will be mailed with a cover letter that provides some information about the MAP test and how to interpret the results sheet. This Information Sheet is designed to provide additional information about MAP testing and its uses.

Questions and Answers

What is NWEA MAP?

NWEA is the Northwest Evaluation Association, a not-for-profit organization committed to helping school districts across the nation improve student achievement.

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is one of the assessments NWEA offers to districts to improve student achievement.

What does a MAP assessment look like?

A MAP assessment is a computer delivered adaptive test. As the student responds to questions the computer builds a test for that student based on correct or incorrect responses to previous questions.

What do MAP assessments measure?

MAP assessments are aligned to Wisconsin State Standards and are designed to measure student knowledge and skills in the content areas of reading, language arts, and mathematics.

How is a MAP test scored?

The test results identify your child's academic achievement in *RIT* scores. This is a different type of score than a typical test which usually reports a percentage correct. The *RIT* score is a continuous scale, independent of grade level. As a result, your child's academic growth from fall to spring, and from one school year to the next can be easily measured, similar to how a student's height can be measured with a ruler.

Who takes the MAP assessment?

Students in grades 5 thru 8 take the MAP assessment in the areas of reading, mathematics, and sometimes language arts.

What is the difference between MAP and the Forward (state test)?

The results of the state's annual test (Forward) indicate whether a student is performing at grade level. The MAP test identifies a student's instructional level. Because MAP is given in both the fall and spring, a student's growth during the school year can also be measured.

How are the results of MAP testing used?

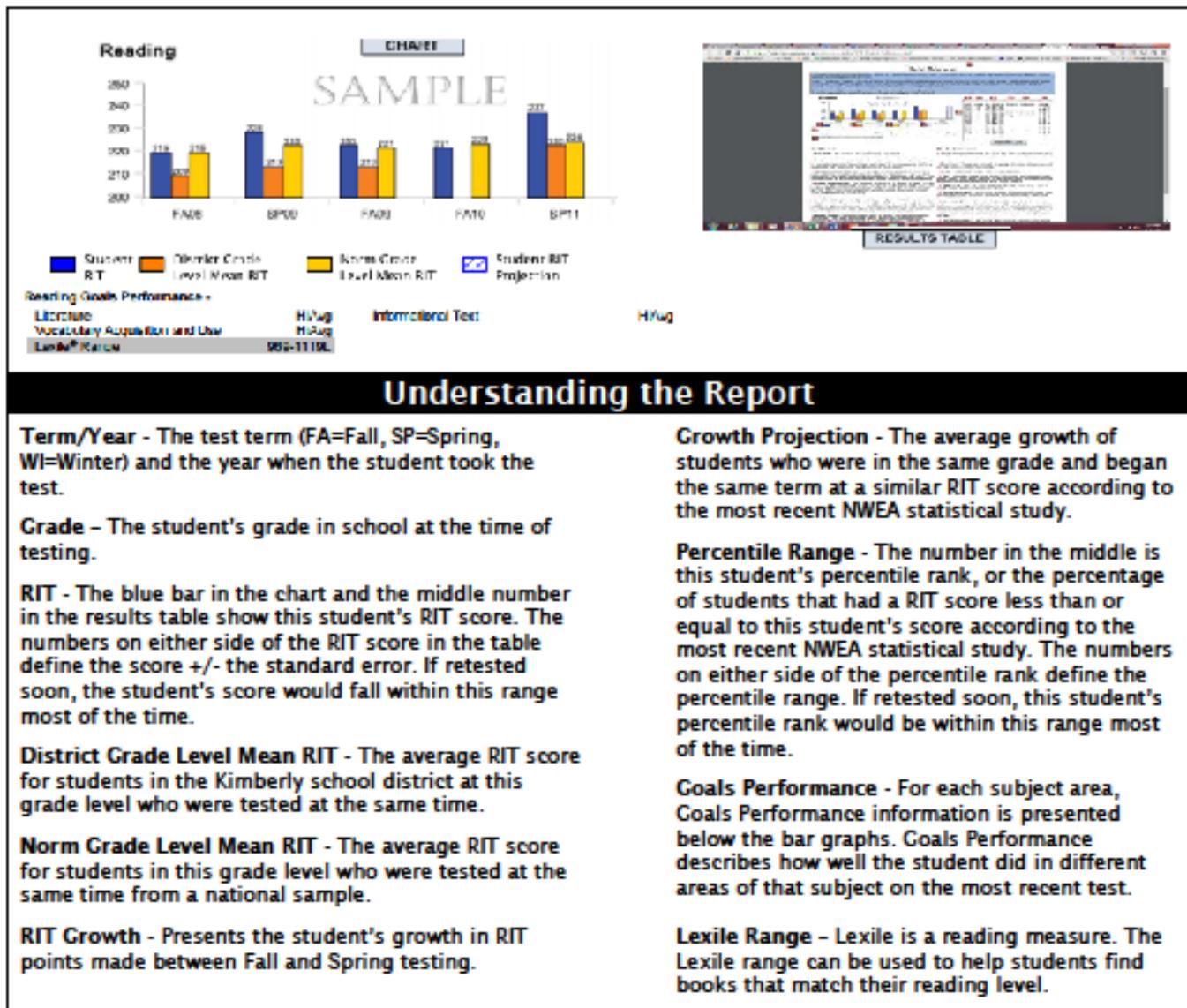
The MAP assessment, combined with other student performance results, provides the teaching staff with valuable information to inform instruction. Because of the nature of the scoring system used by MAP, a student's progress or growth can be tracked during the school year and from school year to school year. MAP results can also be used to set and monitor school improvement goals.

When are students assessed and how often?

MAP allows for testing a child up to four times a year in each content area. In the Kimberly Area School District, students are tested in reading and math once in the Fall (September/ October) and once in the Spring (April/May).

Some testing is also done at mid-year (January/February) when teachers want to check on the progress students are making.

What does the MAP report look like?



For additional information about your child's MAP results, contact your child's teacher or principal.

*For additional information about the MAP test, contact John Schultz, Director of Student Improvement.
jschultz@kimberly.k12.wi.us
(920) 788-7900 x4181*

IMPORTANT UPDATE



ONLINE PROGRAMMING FOR 2021-2022

Kimberly Area School District plans to return to full-time, in-person learning as the primary learning model for the 2021-2022 school year. An online option will only be available for students in grades 7-12. For questions or more information, please contact John Schultz at jschultz@kimberly.k12.wi.us



GOLF TEAMS and SPONSORS NEEDED!

FORE! OUR KIDS 2021 GOLF OUTING

Thursday, June 10, 2021 | High Cliff Golf Course, Sherwood

Benefitting Students in the Kimberly Area School District and Community

- Life Force
- JRG Rocks
- Post Prom
- Graduation Celebration
- Paperfest
- Kimberly July 4th Fireworks



For more information contact Sara Vogel svogel@kimberly.k12.wi.us or 920-423-4122

Register online at: <https://www.ForeOurKidsGolf.com>

Student Services TikTok Account

With our face-to-face time with students somewhat limited this year, Mr. Demmin and Ms. Diamond created a private JRG Student Services TikTok account! We are trying to find creative ways to stay connected with kids learning both virtually and in person, as well as make school feel a little more fun in the time of COVID. **Please note that your child does NOT need a phone or a TikTok account in order to join in the fun.**

Each time the counselors create a video, it is saved to Google Drive and a link is sent to each and every student via their school email. Some of the videos created so far include introducing our pet goldfish, promoting Spirit Week dress up days, and promoting the October Trick or Can food drive (the counselors even learned a dance for that one, thanks to a little bit of help from the 8th graders)! Our hope is that these videos will share valuable information, and also give our students something to smile and laugh about behind their masks.



Kimberly Area Running Club 2021 FAMILY FUN RUN SERIES

- *June 13th, June 27th, July 11th*
 - *Run one, or run them all!*
- Registration begins at 6:00pm, run begins at 6:30pm.
 - Free registration!
 - Just come and run!
- Cross-country style run through trails, fields, and hills.
- 1 mile course or 2 mile course
- All ages and abilities welcome!
- Please bring your own refreshments. (Limited ones provided this year due to COVID)
- Held at Kimberly High School
- Kimberly Area Running Club sponsored event
- Timing Clock at the finish line
- Face masks are required when entering and exiting and anytime physical distancing is breached. Masks can be removed during the run and replaced immediately after.



- For more info. email Joe at kimberlyarearunningclub@gmail.com

School Fees and Lunch Payments

Just a reminder that you are able to pay school fees and add money to your lunch account online through Infinite Campus. You are now able to pay fees and add money to your lunch account at anytime during the year without being charged the \$1.75 by using the **e-check method**. You will still be charged \$1.75 if you choose to use a credit card to recoup some of the credit card fees that the district is charged. Please remember when you use an e-check it is similar to using a paper check and if this check would be rejected by your bank due to non-sufficient funds, you will be charged a \$25 NSF fee.

Emergency Medications

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

A Note From The Health Room

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.

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.

The **BEST** Way to Buy Back-to-School Supplies!

Click Here to Order Now!
Order by July 1st

✓ Eliminate the Risk of Shopping at the Big Box Retailers

✓ Name Brand Products Like:



Mead



TICONDEROGA



Pre-Order Today at: 1stDaySchoolSupplies.com

We Need *you*

We want our schools to remain open. To do that, we need your support. How can you help?



- ✓ Keep your child home if they are ill.
- ✓ Keep your child home if they have been tested for COVID until results are known.
- ✓ AVOID LARGE GATHERINGS.

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.

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.

Community Events

[Want to share an event? Click Here](#)

Please complete the linked form to request information to be distributed by the Kimberly Area School District. Submit requests at least two weeks prior to your event. Distribution level and type may be approved differently than requested. We reserve the right to deny any request.

***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 Jen Bixler at (920)423-4166 or email her at jbixler@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.

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

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
Rob DeLain
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