

Gator News

Learning, Leadership and Laughter...The JRG Journey

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



@ a Glance

- Celebrations
- Gators in the Swamp
- ACP Parent Letter
- Activities and Events



April 30-May 4
Scholastic BOGO Book Fair
Operation Cell Phone

May 3
New Student Orientation—
6:00-7:15

May 7-11
School Nutrition Employee
Week

May 7
Band and Choir Concert
7th Grade—6:00
8th Grade—7:15

May 10
Staff Appreciation Luncheon

May 11
Early Release—11:20

ROCKS Badger Sports Park
Lock-In—10:00 PM-6:00
AM

May 24
All Library Books Due

May 28
No School—Memorial Day

May 29
Chromebook Turn-In
8th Grade Recognition—
6:00

May 31
Class Trips
7th Grade—Bay Beach
8th Grade—Great America

Last Day of School

Congratulations to Ms. Balistreri!

Ms. Balistreri was nominated for the Harris History Teacher Award by the Wisconsin Historical Society, administrator of the National History Day program in Wisconsin. The Harris History Teacher of the Year award is sponsored by James F. Harris and is awarded to one middle and high school teacher annually.

Dr. James F. Harris sponsors the awards in recognition of the pivotal role teachers play in the lives of students. The two national winners will be announced on #NationalHistoryDay, June 14, 2018.

These two winners will be chosen by a team of teachers and historians. Nominees' work must clearly illustrate the development and use of creative teaching methods that interest students in history and help them make exciting discoveries about the past.



13 Reasons Why—Second Season

JRG families - Netflix has recently announced that season 2 of Thirteen Reasons Why will be available beginning May 18. We thought this would be a timely opportunity to share the article below, which was originally published in the Gator News after season 1 was released. As always, if you have concerns or questions about your child, please feel free to reach out to your child's counselor, teacher or an administrator.

As we all know as parents, there are many choices in media (video, social media, books, etc.) for our children to consume. Children in middle school also cover a wide range in terms of their understanding of different materials and their maturity levels in processing what they see, hear and read, and different families have different expectations and values related to these materials. Because of that wide range, we don't often share information about specific books or TV shows to parents. Recently, however, the book and now the Netflix series *Thirteen Reasons Why* has become popular among our students and on social media. Because the plot and content offer elements parents should be aware of, we wanted to provide parents with an overview of the book and TV show, and links to some resources related to the show.

This Netflix series, based on a book by Jay Asher, tells the story of a girl who has committed suicide. After her death, characters discover that she has created audio tapes that point to specific people and situations that the girl feels have contributed to her death. The series depicts several sensitive topics including sexual assault, drunk driving and drug use, bullying and mistreatment, and suicide. While the intention of the show, according to producers, was to deter youth suicide, some experts are concerned that it may inadvertently put students further at risk if they are sensitive or vulnerable to such content and are unable to access resources and support.

The National Association of School Psychologists has released a guide with resources for educators and parents to help students process this series if they have watched, are watching, or plan to watch the show. This guide can be found here: <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators>

This discussion also provides us with an opportunity to remind parents of the mental health resources available in our area. The Kimberly Area School District also provides a list of mental health resources for parents on our website at: <http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us/departments/mental-health-resources>, and parents or students also have access to other sources of support listed below:

- 24/7 Crisis Intervention Resources
- Text "HOPELINE" to 741741
- Outagamie County Crisis Information - (920) 832-4646
- Calumet County Crisis Information - (920) 849-9317
- Winnebago County Crisis Information - (920) 233-7707 or (920) 722-7707
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - (800) 273-8255

If you have concerns about your child's mental health for any reason, our counselors are available to help your child increase their success at school and point you in the direction of other resources. Please feel free to reach out.

UW Oshkosh Math Problem Solving Contest

The second annual University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Mathematical Problem Solving Contest, sponsored by the UWO Mathematics Department, STEM Outreach, and the Chancellor's Office, was held on campus on Tuesday April 24, 2018

Over 1100 top mathletes from over 40 schools from Milwaukee to Green Bay to Sun Prairie participated in this exciting event. 48 of the mathletes came from JRG.

Please follow [this link](#) to view photos and event details highlighting some of our talented Mathletes!

Congratulations to KASD Music Programs

The Kimberly Area School District has once again been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation of the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. KASD is one of 4% of districts across the nation receiving the prestigious award in 2018.

The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, KASD answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.



School Nutrition Employee Week—May 7-11

Please take a moment to say "Thank You" to our Chartwells workers this week for all of the hard work they do on a daily basis to provide our students with healthy breakfast and lunch options.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon—Thursday, May 10

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, we need your help thanking the fantastic staff at JRG! On Thursday, May 10, we will be hosting our annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Please consider signing up to provide a dish to pass (with recipe) on May 10. Please click [here](#) to be taken to the SignUp Genius page which has detailed information concerning the luncheon and available options for dishes and assistance. You may also complete and return the form found on page 8.

Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey—Tuesday, May 15

JRG is taking part in the Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey on Tuesday, May 15. Students will be asked to fill out a confidential 25 minute survey during class time. Although we ask that all students participate in the survey, it is voluntary. A more detailed description of the survey can be found on page 7. If you DO NOT want your student to take part in the survey, please complete the form on page 6 and return it to Student Services no later than Wednesday, May 9. Please contact Matt Bumgardner at 788-7905, ext. 2836 with any questions or concerns

JRG Talent Show and Study Hall

The JRG Talent Show is right around the corner! Students with 2 or more missing assignments by May 8 at 3:00 PM will attend a study hall during the Talent Show to complete their missing work. Students who have all their work completed will be able to attend the Talent Show.

Fox Cities Stars Boys Hockey New Player Meeting

Attention Hockey Players, -- the Fox Cities Stars Boys Hockey team will be having a meeting May 8 at 5:30 pm at Xavier High School in the commons for all new and prospective players and parents. Please plan to attend for information on the upcoming season and summer training opportunities.

Bulldog Football

Bulldog Football is now accepting registrations for the 2018 season. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

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.

Gators In The Swamp

"Gators in the Swamp" is similar to what other schools might call "Faces in the Crowd." It is meant to highlight the great students that we have at JRG so that we can get to know more people within our school. If we can become a more connected school, then JRG will be even more enjoyable.

These students were chosen at random upon filling out a Google Form in their TLC. Each student answered a couple questions about themselves, and provided us with permission to use their picture and some of their information in Gator News.

If you see these students, use their information as a way to start a conversation with them or to just acknowledge that you saw them in Gator News.

Julie Feyen

(7th Grade Glade)



Julie likes to draw as well as going camping during the summer. She also is looking forward to having summer vacation.

Aubrey Reinke

(8th Grade Glade)



Aubrey's favorite place to visit is Daytona Beach. She also likes to hang out with friends and dance. Aubrey is especially looking forward to summer

Owen Endemann

(7th Grade Lagoon)



Owen's favorite destinations to visit are movie theaters, Bay Beach, and the YMCA. He is also looking forward to his birthday and summer break.

Moira Helein

(8th Grade Lagoon)



Moira enjoys Jui Jitsu and wrestling in her free time. Her favorite subject is art because it is hands on.

Rayne Ralls

(7th Grade Bayou)



Rayne's favorite subject is Science because he enjoys working with chemicals. He is also part of a MLG (Major League Gaming) team.

Madison McCarthy

(8th Grade Bayou)



Madison is involved in both basketball and volleyball at JRG. One fun fact about her is that she has been in a hurricane.

Sydney Neveu

(7th grade Swampie)



Sydney is looking forward to the end of the year, and a fun fact about her is that she goes to the dance studio after school.

Alex Creveling

(8th Grade Swampie)



Alex is a wrestler at JRG. His favorite destination is Florida.

JRG Club Information

Coding Club - 3:00-4:00 Room 111

Upcoming Dates: May 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24 (last meeting)

Contact: Ms. Froze with questions: afroze@kimberly.k12.wi.us

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 announce 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 and can be found later in this newsletter. Submission of a request does not guarantee assistance.

Follow JRG on Instagram, 'Like' Us on Facebook

JRG can be found on Facebook at [Facebook.com/JRGGerritts](https://www.facebook.com/JRGGerritts).
In addition, JRG is now on Instagram at [@JRGMSOfficial](https://www.instagram.com/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.

[WI DNR Boater Safety Classes](#), March, April and May, various dates and locations offering

[Girls Intro to Hockey](#) at Fox River Girls Hockey Club, April and May 2018

[Kimberly High School Car Show May 19, 2018](#)

[Kimberly Running Club Fun Run Series](#) June 10, June 24, July 8 - Free Registration!

[4H Summer Camp](#) at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center July 8-12, 2018

[YMCA Camp Nan A Bo Sho](#) Summer 2018 Camp Offerings

[2018 Baseball//Softball/Tee Ball Registration](#) for Combined Locks Rec. Dept.

[2018 Baseball Registration and Information](#) for Kimberly Park and Rec.

[Summer 2018 Summer Program Guide](#)



COME TO OUR

BUY ONE, GET ONE **FREE*** BOOK FAIR!

STOCK UP FOR SUMMER READING!

DATES/TIMES/PLACE

Monday-Friday during the school day

Thursday, May 3 5:00-7:30 PM

Gerritts MS, room 101 (near office)



These cards accepted at participating schools.

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* All free items must be of equal or lesser value than the ones you buy. Titles vary by Book Fair. All items at your Book Fair are available while supplies last.

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Dear JRG Families:

We have an exciting opportunity for you to get involved with our Academic and Career Planning (ACP) initiative at JR Gerritts! ACP helps students better understand the world of work and begin to think about where their strengths and interests align to future education and career options. Middle school students typically know about a limited number of jobs (usually just what members of their family do, and a few others). You may think that what you do would not interest middle school students, but it does! What you have to share may have a lifelong impact on one of our students.



We are seeking parent volunteers to talk about their work to help our students gain a greater awareness of local occupations. On January 18 and April 26, parents or other guest speakers will briefly present their occupation to 8 different groups of students (about 30 students per class, with a JRG teacher present). Speakers will remain in one classroom and students will rotate to the different guest speakers. Within each 15 minute rotation, we would like speakers to:

- Discuss your job description and responsibilities – what you do on a typical day or in a typical week
- Talk about what makes your job interesting, challenging and fulfilling, and what skills and interests are important in your job.
- Present props/visuals related to your job (optional)
- Answer student questions

Our ACP plan uses the concept of career clusters, which bundles jobs into 16 different categories. This year, we will be focusing on eight of those career clusters. Listed below are the eight career clusters, jobs that might be found in each cluster, and the date in which we will be seeking parent/guest speakers in that cluster:

JANUARY 18, 2019

| Health Science | Arts, Audio/Visual, Tech, & Communication | Law, Public Safety, Correction, & Security | Finance |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Doctor ● Dentist ● Physical Therapist ● Nurse ● Chiropractor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fashion Designer ● Graphic Designer ● Musician ● Photographer ● Telecommunications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Police Officer ● Fire Fighter ● Judge ● Lawyer ● Corrections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accountant ● Insurance ● Tax Preparer ● Financial Advisor ● Loan Officer |

APRIL 26, 2019

| Architecture & Construction | Business, Management, & Administration | Information Technology | Education & Training |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Architect ● Carpenter ● Construction ● Surveyor ● Roofer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fundraiser ● Human Resource ● Postal Service ● Compensation/Benefits ● Interviewer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computer Programmer ● Security Analyst ● Web Developer ● Systems Analyst ● Data Warehousing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coach ● Professor ● Librarian ● Archivist ● Teacher |

If you would like to help and do not see a category that fits with your occupation, we will be presenting the other eight career clusters during the 2019-2020 school year.

If you are interested in helping, please return this form to the JR Gerritts front office along with the career cluster and job that you wish to share. Please contact Bradley Demmin at bdemmin@kimberly.k12.wi.us or (920) 788-7905 ext. 4103 with questions or for more information. We'll get in touch with you closer to the date of the presentation to confirm and finalize details.

Name: _____

Email/Phone: _____

Career Cluster: _____

Occupation: _____

PASSIVE PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM

J.R. Gerrits Middle School is taking part in the Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey sponsored by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction on Tuesday, May 15th. The survey will ask about the health behaviors of 7th and 8th grade students at J.R. Gerrits Middle School. The survey will ask about behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries, tobacco use, and alcohol and other drug use. It will also ask about sexual behaviors that may result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unwanted pregnancies, as well as dietary behavior and physical activity.

Students will be asked to fill out a questionnaire that takes about 25 minutes to complete. They will take the survey during regular class time.

Completing this anonymous survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey. Also, no class or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results. Your child will get no benefit right away from taking part in the survey. However, the results of this survey will help children in the future by influencing health and safety programs. We would like all students to take part in the survey, but the survey is voluntary. No action will be taken against you, or your child, if your child does not take part. Students can skip any question that they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty.

Please see additional sheets for more facts about the survey. If you have additional questions regarding the survey or would like to view a copy of the survey, please call Matt Bumgardner at 788-7905 ext. 2836.

If you want your child to take part in the survey, you should do nothing with this form.

If you DO NOT want your child to take part in the survey, check the box, sign and date the form and return the form to Mr. Bumgardner in Student Services no later than Wednesday, May 9th, 2018. This form is also published in the Gator News. Signing and returning this form will dismiss your child from taking the survey.

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

I have read this form and know what the survey is about.

[] My child may not take part in this survey.

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone number: _____



J.R.G. Teacher & Staff Appreciation Luncheon Thursday, May 10, 2018



We need your help in honoring the fantastic staff
at J.R.G. Middle School!

If you would like to donate an item for the luncheon and/or help us
on Thursday, May 10, please sign up at this [Sign Up Genius link](#), or use the attached slip
below and send to school with your child.

The staff LOVES having the recipes to all the yummy dishes you bring,
so please include your recipe with your dish to pass.
We will make copies for them to enjoy.

Don't forget to send a serving utensil (labeled with your name)
and have your dessert cut and ready to serve!
Remember to pick up your dishes in the office
at the end of the school day.

Please bring your food donation
to the office by 9:30 AM
on Thursday, May 10th.

Yes! I can bring the following for the J.R.G. Staff Appreciation Luncheon:

FRUIT SALAD _____ VEGETABLE SALAD _____

PASTA SALAD _____ DESSERT _____

NAME: _____ STUDENT'S NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP AT THE LUNCHEON: _____ Set-up 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Clean-up 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

KIMBERLY HIGH SCHOOL-MANDATORY FALL SPORT MEETINGS

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018

5:30 – 6:30 – JACK RENKENS, INFORMATIONAL/MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER (AUDITORIUM)

Jack founded Recruiting Realities to provide student athletes and their families with an educational resource about the collegiate athletic recruiting process. He also addresses positive sports parenting and uses of social media by your child. For more information on Jack and Recruiting Realities please visit www.recruitingrealities.com Attendance is not mandatory but we strongly encourage you to attend.

6:35 – 7:00 – FALL ORIENTATION MEETING (Parents of/and 1st time athletes at KHS)

All incoming freshmen fall athletes, new transfer student fall athletes and first time athletic participants MUST attend this meeting with a parent.

7:05 – INDIVIDUAL FALL SPORT MEETINGS (All fall athletes and parents)

Each individual fall sport will meet in their own location (locations will be posted).

ALL fall athletes and parents MUST attend this meeting.



Parents Who Host Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

As the school year wraps up, there are many reasons to celebrate. One key choice you may be faced with is whether or not to host a teenage drinking party. There is no safe way to host a teenage drinking party. Please help us encourage the youth in our community to make good decisions.

We invite you to join the national movement "Parents Who Host Lose The Most." Free yard signs are available at the main offices at Kimberly High School and JRG Middle School, and at the District's Administration building.

Learn more at the Drug-Free Action Alliance's website
www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/parents-who-host.



Family Move and Change of Information Notification**Kimberly Area School District****Attn: Lesli Simon****P.O. Box 159****Combined Locks, WI 54113**

The changes below apply to the following children in the family. Please list all children in school and those not yet in school.

| Name | School | Name | School |
|------|--------|------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

Please List New Information Below

Date of Move _____

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Student address or phone change _____ |
| |
| |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Legal Parent or Guardian | Legal Parent or Guardian | Child lives with: (circle) |
| Name _____ | Name _____ | Both Parents Mother Father Other |
| Street _____ | Street _____ | |
| City _____ Zip _____ | City _____ Zip _____ | |
| Home Phone _____ Cell _____ | Phone _____ Cell _____ | Marital Status: (circle) |
| Employer _____ | Employer _____ | Married Separated Divorced Living together Other |
| Work Phone _____ | Work Phone _____ | |
| Work Hours _____ | Work Hours _____ | |
| Email _____ | Email _____ | |

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Stepmother or Stepfather (circle one) | Doctor _____ Phone _____ |
| Name _____ | Dentist _____ Phone _____ |
| Phone _____ | Health Conditions _____ |
| | Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____ |

Parent or Guardian

Signature _____ Date _____

revised 04/20/2017



PROJECT STARFISH

.....one matters

J.R. GERRITTS MIDDLE SCHOOL Grant Application

Date _____

Name _____ Grade _____

Student Team: Everglades Swampies Lagoons Bayous

Activity/Event: _____

Your request (Describe in detail how much money is needed and what you hope to learn.)

Amount requested \$ _____

(Project Starfish can be used for Mini-courses for $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total amount due, to a maximum of \$20. Please note that Project Starfish will not give money directly to students. Items will be purchased for the student or forwarded directly to supplier/program administrator on behalf of student recipient).

Please review some of the opportunities for volunteering below and check how you would like to fulfill your volunteer hours.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LMC | <input type="checkbox"/> display cases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> grounds clean-up | <input type="checkbox"/> hall clean-up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sweep the gym | <input type="checkbox"/> clean lunch tables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean Student Services | <input type="checkbox"/> hang posters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> clean computer labs |
| other _____ | |

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Amount Approved \$ _____

Principal Signature _____ Date _____

ALL COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO STUDENT

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