

The Kingsley Connection

August 2019

Monthly update from Ms. France, Principal

It's finally August & we are *thrilled* that our *Kingsley Cavaliers* will soon fill the classrooms! *Middle school students* are our *very favorite* and we cannot wait to begin the school year *together!* Thank you, Kingsley families, for allowing us the privilege of working with your amazing children. We sincerely hope the year ahead is filled with joy and discovery.

August Dates to Note

- **Walk in Registration:** August 8, 3:00-6:00, All are welcome to practice schedules, decorate lockers, pick up supply boxes, purchase PE clothes, purchase/pick up locks, touch base with the nurse, etc..
- **Schedule practice & locker decoration:** August 9, 11:00-1:00, Supply Box pick up available.
- **Back to School Bash:** August 15, 5:30-7:30, Supply Box pick up available.
- **First full day of school:** August 16
- **Laptop distribution:** August 16 at KJHS during the school day, Want to know more about U5 tech? [Click here.](#)
Late Start: August 2
- **Fall Pictures:** August 30, Order forms will come home with your student.



Before School Supervision If your family needs before school supervision for your middle schooler, [register here.](#)

Kingsley Basics

School hours: 8:45am - 3:45pm

Pick Up/Drop off times: Staff is available to supervise students at 8:20am until 3:55pm. *If you drop off before 8:20am and are not a part of the before school program, your child will not be supervised by staff.*

Pick up/Drop off locations: The north entrance and the front of the school are the safest pick up/drop off locations. To maximize student safety, do not use the south end where there is significant traffic due to the staff parking lot and the bus lane. Only buses are allowed in the bus lane. *Safety is more important than convenience.*

Attendance: Please phone the attendance line at 557-4456 for late arrivals, early dismissals or absences.

Immunization Questions: Contact our very capable school nurse, Jennifer O'Brien, at 557-4683

Counselors: If your child's last name begins with A-K, Kim Johnson is your child's counselor. Ethan Wood serves students whose last name begins with L-Z. Your child will have the same school counselor for grades 6 through 8.

School-wide Updates

We will work with students to understand school-wide rules and guidelines. Below are a few highlights or new items.

- **Water bottles:** Everyone gets thirsty! Students are welcome to have water - clear, pure water - during the school day in a clear container with a lid. It helps keep our school clean!
- **Bags with straps:** During the school day, we ask that students help us keep classroom aisles clear and safe by leaving all backpacks, cinch sacks, computer bags - basically any bag with a strap - in their locker. A 13" laptop sleeve will keep laptops safe and give students a spot for earbuds.
- **Cell phones:** Students may use their cell phones before 8:45 a.m. and after 3:45 p.m. Cell phones should be off and out of sight during the school day. *Parents! Please help* by texting your child before 8:45 a.m. or after 3:45 p.m. *The school office is happy to relay a message* during the school day! If your child texts you they are ill, please encourage your child to come see our nurse. If your child is ill, the nurse will phone you.

Follow us on Facebook @ facebook.com/kingsleyJHS

Student IDs

Middle schools will once again ask students to use their student IDs in the lunch line plus on and off the bus.

Why IDs in the lunch line? Scanning student IDs makes the lunch line faster! It is the only method for food payment. Keypads are no longer available for lunch code entry. Don't have an ID at lunch? No worries! Everyone eats! Students with their IDs go through the lines first then students who do not have IDs will go next.

Why IDs on the school bus? Anytime students ride a bus, even for athletics, students will be required to scan their IDs. This will allow us to access "real time" attendance on bus routes.

What happens if my student loses their ID? All students will be given an ID on a lanyard to begin the year. After picture day, students will be given a second ID so everyone gets a back up! We're all human! After that, students can stop by the office to order a replacement IDs for \$3.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to wear their ID on a lanyard or keep it in a wallet, a card case, etc.

Community, it's who we are.

Growth, it's what we promise.

Innovation, it's how we serve.

Kingsley is a learner-centered community that puts students first.

Our mission is based on three core values of community, growth and innovation. We focus on building community within classrooms, as teams, as a school and beyond the school walls..

Community building requires getting to know others, developing a deep appreciation for and embracing our uniquenesses and commonalities. PBIS, advisory lessons and other social emotional supports are invaluable in growing our Kingsley community. Growing requires us, educators, parents and students, to intentionally choose who we will "BE" for ourselves and others. In essence, building community helps humans to discover themselves and others to grow.

Isn't that at the core of middle school? Guiding young people to discover their passions and ignite interest in newly discovered topics? Kingsley is committed to your student broadening their sense of community, growing socially, emotionally and academically through innovative strategies and open hearts.

Want to join the KJHS Promise Council Shout-out list? [Click here](#) to join.

When we discover a Kingsley student or family has a need, an email goes out to families to see if you may be able to help. For example, when a Kingsley family had a fire, we were able to send out an email to our shout-out list and provide a new bed, kitchen table and cleaning supplies within days to the family.



Interested in a Yearbook? Click [here](#) for an order form and information.

Athletic Participation Athletic participation forms are now available electronically. Please visit the Kingsley athletics homepage and create a Registration for your student. <http://il.8to18.com/kingsleyjhs>



**A learner-centered community that puts
students first**



Instructional Practices & Standards-based Grading

What is happening with standards-based reporting? Unit 5 middle schools are continuing the multi-year shift of our instructional practices and method of reporting student progress. *This fall, all content areas, except Algebra and Honors Geometry, will be sharing student growth information through a standards-based platform in Infinite Campus.*

Why have we changed to standards-based reporting? This is a fair question. Standards-based reporting provides students, parents and teachers more specific information about student performance so that enrichment or more instruction can be provided in specific areas. You can expect to see progress reported based on what your child knows and can do connected to specific topics and/or skills; educators call these specific topics and/or skill standards. *Infinite Campus* will show assignments, projects, tests and quizzes under a broad subject, such as Ratios and Proportional Relationships, and also under a specific standard/skill, such as Dividing Integers.

What do academic reporting levels look like?

In standards-based reporting, a four-point scale, shown below, replaces the traditional 100-point scale and letter grading system.

Academic reporting levels

Level	Description
4	The student has such a deep understanding of the concept or skill that she/he independently applies their knowledge or skills in a way that has not been explicitly taught. This level indicates the student has demonstrated a very deep understanding and application of skills and concepts.
3	The student is able to complete tasks to answer questions relating to the skill independently. He/she consistently shows grade level proficiency with this concept or skill. The student performance matches grade level expectations.
2	The student is beginning to grasp the concept or skill. She/he may struggle to independently complete tasks or answer questions relating to the concept or skill, but with support from the teacher, the student is able to show limited proficiency. It is also possible that the student is able to show proficiency at some times, but is not yet consistent in his/her proficiency.
1	The student is in the very early stages of understanding this new concept or skill. At this point, the student needs significant support from the teacher to understand what is being asked of her/him. The student is not ready to complete tasks or answer questions relating to this concept or skill.

How does this impact the classroom? The focus is on growth and learning, not point accumulation, in standards-based classrooms. Teachers look for evidence that students consistently meet established learning targets. Students may re-submit work and/or retake an assessment *if additional learning has occurred*. Ultimately, the score earned will be an accurate representation of your child's understanding of a skill or concept. Teachers will work with students and communicate to families the process and expectation for re-submitting work and completing retakes. Teachers have the discretion to use a retake system that works for their content area and classroom. Scores for each subject strand are calculated by the electronic gradebook.

If a student does not produce enough evidence to evaluate their level of mastery or understanding, a grade of "I" or incomplete will be reported. Incomplete assignments will turn into a zero, no evidence of learning provided, after a teacher specified period of time.

What are learner traits/process criteria? Additionally, we will also report learner characteristics using the symbols shown in the table below. It is important in a standards-based classroom to not mix behavior reporting with academic reporting. *Learner traits, as well as academic progress, will be reported at the end of each semester.*

Learner traits: Respect, Responsibility, Collaboration and Investment in Learning

Mark	Description of Learner Traits/Process Criteria
+	Learner characteristics and exhibited behaviors are consistently grade appropriate.
/	Learner characteristics and exhibited behavior are occasionally grade appropriate.
-	Learner characteristics and exhibited behaviors are not grade level appropriate.

Honor roll recognition and Eligibility

Middle schools have phased out honor roll and high honor roll recognitions. Teams may choose to have a celebration of student achievement and/or learner characteristics of an individual or groups of students. However, middle schools will no longer publish an honor roll listing.

For eligibility in a sport or extracurricular group, students must maintain subject strand scores of at least 1.5 academic performance level.

Where can I access more information? Visit the the Unit 5 website at <http://www.unit5.org/sbg>.

As always, I would encourage you to speak to your child about this change in reporting student achievement! Of course, please let myself, or someone on our Kingsley administrative team know if you have additional questions. I **thank you** for your support as we make this transition back to school together!