

The Kingsley Connection

August 2018

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!*

Before the year gets underway, we want to say 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.

Middle School – Finding True North

Part 1



Not all those who
wander are lost
-JRR Tolkien

The middle school years encompass a time in life of tremendous physical, academic, social and emotional growth. For students, the world gets a little bigger with new ideas to explore, friends to make and experiences to embrace. All of these opportunities can be incredibly exciting and a little scary for young people and parents.

It is common and developmentally appropriate for middle school students to test out new interests and bounce emerging ideas off family members and friends. While friends become increasingly important, family remains the cornerstone for middle schoolers. Open communication will help families guide young people along their middle school journey.

At Kingsley, our hope is to partner with you as you navigate the middle school years with your child. We are committed to helping students achieve personal excellence by growing academically and discovering their true north.

#SpreadKindnessKingsley#CavPRIDE

August Dates to Note

- **Schedules mailed:** August 3
- **Walk in Registration:** August 9, 3:00-5:45, All are welcome to decorate lockers at this time.
- **Backpack Party:** August 9, 1:00-5:00 at Grossinger Motor Center
Qualified families may pick up the flyer in the KJHS main office.
- **U5 Immunization Clinic:** August 10, 8:30-11:30 at Chiddix Junior High School
- **Back to School Bash:** August 14, 5:30-7:30, Flyer is attached.
- **First full day of school:** August 16
- **Laptop distribution:** August 17 at KJHS
Please make your student aware of your family's BYOD/RENT decision. For additional BYOD/RENT information, go to <https://www.unit5.org/Page/11821>
- **Late Start:** August 29
- **Fall Pictures:** August 31, Order forms will come home with your student.



Before School Supervision

If your family is in need of before school supervision for your middle school student, [click here](#) to find out more and register.

Follow us on Facebook @ [facebook.com/kingsleyJHS](https://www.facebook.com/kingsleyJHS)

Kingsley Basics

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

Because staff is available to supervise students beginning at 8:20am, our doors open at 8:20am. At the end of the day, please pick up your Cavalier by 3:55pm.

Pick up/Drop off: The north entrance and the front of the school are the safest pick up/drop off locations. To maximize student safety, please avoid using 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.

Attendance: If your child will arrive late, needs to leave early or will not be attending school, please phone the attendance line at 557-4456.

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.

Student IDs

This school year, Unit 5 School District, along with Unit 5 Technology, Transportation, and Food Service will have middle school students utilize new student IDs for services during the school day. This includes riding the bus, checking out items from the IMC, and purchasing food items. Please know more information about this new process will be provided to your student(s) by Kingsley staff, at the beginning of the year.

Interested in a Yearbook?



Families can now add a yearbook to their student's Skyward account. The yearbook is under the additional charges tab.

Athletic Participation - *Made easier for your convenience*

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>





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 seventh and eighth grade Social Studies, will be sharing student growth information through a standards-based platform in Skyward.* Seventh and eighth grade Social Studies will report progress with traditional grades but will transition to standards-based reporting in fall of 2019.

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. Skyward 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 on the right, 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 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?

To see and hear more information about Standards Based Grading, please visit <http://www.unit5.org/sbg> This site contains information about standards based grading, how homework and classroom practices may look a bit different and why the standards based reporting system provides more detailed information about your child's progress.

As always, I would encourage you to speak to your child about this change in reporting student achievement! They will be getting this information within the first week of school, too.

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 together!

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