



September 22, 2009

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KWHS Mission

To prepare each student for success in college, career and life through an engaging, challenging and innovative educational program that is student centered and promotes character and values.

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 25th, 9am-2:45pm
Blood Drive, Big Room

Monday, September 28
Drama Club Meeting after school

A Message from the Principal

by Jim Perry

What a great pleasure it is to begin a new year and see all of the energetic students back in our hallways and classrooms. I realize how quiet and empty our school feels all summer without students.

We are off to a very exciting start of what I'm sure will be a positive and productive school year full of new learning. As with the beginning of each new year at KWHS we are introducing enhancements to our program and this year is no exception. As I'm sure you have already heard we are conducting our classes in a modified block schedule this year. After studying block schedules for the past few years we decided that a modified block schedule would offer our program two important benefits. One, we are now able to offer a different block each morning so students no longer have the same class with the same teacher first thing in the morning. In addition, our last period of the day changes each day as well. I'm sure you can understand the benefit of arriving each morning to a different class rather than the same section day after day.

Another benefit of our modified block schedule is that we now have 90 minute class periods in our classes once a week. This arrangement will allow teachers to plan more in-depth activities, projects and labs during this extended time allowing students to dig much deeper into their work than with just 50 or 60 minutes. I know it will take a few weeks to get

**Tuesday,
September 29th**
Picture Day

**Thursday, October 1st,
9am-3pm**
EMU/WCC tour for Juniors and Seniors

Friday, October 9th
First Progress Reports
for Day School

Tuesday, October 6th
ACT and PLAN Testing for Freshman and
Sophomores,
PRACTICE ACT test
for Juniors

Zangle ParentConnect

**Zangle ParentConnect will be activated on
9/28/2009.**

If you used Parent Connect last year, your pin #
and password stay the same.

If you are new to Kensington Woods, please fill
out an Application for Parent Connect, which is
available in the office and on-line at
<http://www.kwoods.org/academics/zangle.html>

Picture Day

Tuesday, September 29th is Picture Day.
Students have received picture day forms in
their advisories. IF additional copies of the
forms are needed, students can obtain them
from the Main Office or from the website,
www.kwoods.org.

All students are required to have their picture
taken for yearbook and student ID purposes. To
have your picture taken, you must turn in a
picture form to the photographer.

New this year, our photographers, Bak
Photography, will have school pictures available
online approximately a week after picture day
for additional orders!

use to this schedule but we are confident that
the benefits will far out weigh the
inconvenience of learning when each block
meets each day.

We are happy to welcome three new teachers
to our faculty this year. Please feel welcome
to introduce yourself to Mr. Dan Kittell
teaching Physics, Geometry, Engineering and
Astronomy; Mrs. Liz McGuffin teaching
Freshman Seminar, Government and Music; and
Mr. Ken Ferguson teaching Algebra I, 10th
grade English, and school newspaper. Each of
these teachers have an excellent education
and background as well as rich life experiences
that they bring into their classrooms.

As always, all of us at KWHS welcome your
comments anytime. Please feel welcome to
contact any of us with any questions, concerns,
or comments anytime. Please see the staff
directory on this newsletter and remember you
can always access this information as well as
any new news at our website:
www.kwoods.org.

As I am reminded during these first weeks of
"catching up" with all of our wonderful students
and their families, what an honor it is to be
able to spend my days with your children.
Thank you for choosing Kensington Woods for
your child's high school experience.

Best Regards,
Jim Perry

**...from the Parent-Teacher
Group President**
by Debbie Uhley

Welcome to all new and returning parents,
students, and staff at K Woods. Our Parent-
Teacher Group would like to invite all
interested adults to join our group. Being a
member puts you on our E-mail list, lets you
know of our school functions and needs, and
welcomes you to join committees and attend
our board meetings held monthly at local

restaurants.

This school year's events include much-needed fundraising so we have the ability to help the school in a variety of ways: hot lunches provided at least on a once-a-month basis, "homecoming" activities in October such as football game/bonfire/dance, School Spirit presence in the community such as at Festival of Lights Parade in Howell the night after Thanksgiving, staff-appreciation luncheons, help with chaperoning and driving on field trips, etc.

We welcome any of your ideas and commitment to make our students' great KWoods experience even better!

Please contact me at bumd@chartermi.net or 810-231-2662 between the hours of 9A and 9P.

Thanks,
Debbie Uhley

Save a Life, Participate in the KWoods Blood Drive

by Lori Waas

Kensington Woods High School is hosting a blood drive on Friday, September 25, 2009, from 9:00 to 2:45. Everyone is invited to come donate blood, and help save a life! To schedule an appointment, stop by the school or visit www.givelife.org, enter 48843 in the zip code search, and select Kensington Woods High School.

You can also participate by donating needed items for snacks/liquids: juice, cookies or baked goods, bottles of water, small paper cups or plates. Please bring in all donations to Ms. Merrill. Help Save A Life!

Thank You!

College News...

by Shawn Pollman

College Presentations and Campus Tours!

KWHS Juniors and Seniors, it's time to start making plans for college! Ms. Merrill and Mrs. Pollman have invited Admissions Counselors from across the state to speak to KWHS students about the programs their respective schools offer. We are also in the process of scheduling campus tours at state colleges and universities. If any KWHS student would like to make a special request for upcoming presentations or tours, they can submit their requests to Mrs. Pollman (room #200).

Upcoming College Presentations at KWHS in the "Big Room"

- *September 22nd, 9:15am*, Lake Superior State University
- *October 5th, 11:05-11:30 (Advisory)*, Concordia University-Ann Arbor
- *October 12th, 11:05-11:30 (Advisory)*, ITT Institute

Campus Tours

- *October 1st*, Eastern Michigan University & Washtenaw Community College

On October 1st, Mrs. Pollman will be taking a group of KWHS Juniors and Seniors on a campus tour of both EMU and WCC. The tour at EMU will start at 10 am and will last approximately two hours. Students will then have the opportunity to eat lunch in the Student Union on EMU's campus. After lunch, we will make our way to the campus of WCC and begin our tour at approximately 1 pm. Students will leave KWHS at 9 am and will return to school at approximately 3 pm. Students should see Mrs. Pollman for a permission slip if they are interested in this opportunity!

The KWHS-Exchange

by Markus Muennix

In 07/08, Kensington Woods High School started an exchange program with a High School in Cologne, Germany. While we are slated to return to Cologne in May 2010, we are expecting our German visitors back on October 30th of this year. For this, we are still looking for families interested in hosting a student for the duration of their 2 week stay. If you think you would like share your experience of the American way of life and host a student, please contact Mr. Muennix at mmuennix@kwoods.org. Also, if you are interested in going to Germany in 2010, let us know so we can start our planning and include you in our fundraising activities.



Fundraising

Have you always wanted to help contribute to your school but had no time or extra money to do so? Now fundraising is becoming easier once again! If you shop at Meijer, use ink or laser

cartridges in your printer at home or have a Target "Red" Card, contributing to our travel abroad funds will not cost you a cent! Please see or e-mail Mr. Muennix at mmuennix@kwoods.org for details.

Math News...

by Shawn Pollman

"Nspiring Students in Mathematics!"

This year all students in Mrs. Pollman's Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus classes will be using the TI-Nspire handheld to explore and discover topics in higher level mathematics. The TI-Nspire is the latest in learning technology from Texas Instruments. This handheld device allows students to visualize mathematical concepts and to take an interactive role in their learning. This tool has been designed around the document model which means that students can have several 'pages' within a file. In addition, students can save their work in a file so that they can return to it at a later time. Students may access any of the following 'pages'- calculator, graphs and geometry, lists and spreadsheets, notes, data and statistics, and documents. The document model incorporates word documents into the calculator tools which makes it a powerful device for presentations, curriculum delivery, and problem solving. This handheld has the ability to record students' thought processes as they work through the investigations presented within the documents. It is designed to help students investigate challenging math topics and to support inquiry based learning where students discover the mathematics for themselves!

The Running Bears Start Their Second Season

by Jessie MacGonigal Pratt

On Saturday, the Kensington Woods Bears competed in their first meet of the year. Although, currently, the team is small, runners made a big splash, with Josh McGahey setting a Career record, and Katie McGuffin, Carly Neidweicki and James Zarish completing their first 5K race ever. Courtney Ferranti toughed out a respectable mile on a painful knee.



Our next meet is on Wednesday, September 23 versus rivals CSPA (Cheryl Stockwell Preparatory Academy) at Kensington Metropark. Races start at 5pm. You can find directions at the Cross Country calendar website, here <http://www.kwoods.org/campus/cccalendar.html> (click on the event, and then the map link. This will give you directions directly to the course).

Go Bears!

Curriculum and Instruction

by Laura Moellering

On Tuesday, October 6, ninth and tenth graders will take the Explore and PLAN tests, respectively. These tests are required by our authorizing university, Central Michigan University, but they also yield good information for us as a school and for students and their parents/guardians. The tests are created and scored by the ACT and predict how a student will score on that all important test in the spring of 11th grade. Having this information so early allows us to fill gaps in our instruction and to address specific student's needs. When we receive the scores, we will invite all parents/guardians of ninth and tenth to an informational meeting about interpreting this data and about how to help your child improve their score. This is by no means the only way we measure student success, but the ACT is an important test for students to do well on to get into the college of their choosing.

On this same morning, juniors will take a practice ACT test. The purpose of this test is for us to get a sense of where juniors are right now and to target our instructional time and their advisory time to maximize their score. This too helps us modify our curriculum so that we are teaching the skills that colleges have identified as the ones students need to succeed. The State of Michigan has adopted the ACT as part of its school accountability measures because the ACT has proven itself reliable in predicting the academic success of students once they hit college, and because we expect our students to pursue their educations after they leave us, we too value this test.

If you have questions about the administration of this test or about how we use the scores or about how you can use the scores, please contact Laura Moellering at lmoellering@kwoods.org or call the school.

Drama Club Starts a New Year

by Jason Pratt

Kensington Woods Drama Club is excited to begin its new season off with a change of pace. Unlike last years comedic production of *The Nerd*, the cast and crew will be adding a sense of seriousness to their repertoire. *Prelude to a Kiss* is a 1988 play by Craig Lucas. It tells the story of a couple that falls in love despite the girl's pessimistic outlook on life. Shortly after their wedding, a supernatural event tests the strength of their love and commitment to each other.

PLOT SYNOPSIS:

Immediately after a young couple named Peter and Rita have exchanged wedding vows, an unknown elderly man asks to kiss the bride. As he does, Rita's soul and the old man's magically exchange bodies.

Neither Peter nor the wedding guests grasp what has happened. Peter leaves the wedding with a woman he believes is Rita. During their honeymoon, he comes to realize that Rita's body is no longer inhabited by Rita's true personality. He must find the old man and keep his love for Rita alive despite the fact that she is now in an unattractive body.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Kwoods students who were cast in the show. Auditions were held September 7th, 8th and 9th and many talented individuals showed up to read for a part. After long deliberations, the cast came to life:

Peter: Nick German

Rita: Abbi Hittel

Old Man: Brad Digiambardino

Tami / Waiter / Aunt Dorothy: Erica Phillips

Mrs. Boyle: Eryca Cottle
Dr. Boyle: Jimmy Valentine
Minister: Steven Hattle
Taylor: Emily Feskorn
Uncle Fred: Josh McGahey
Leah: Kat Juarez

Directors Elissa Patterson and Jason Pratt will be looking for talented and skilled individuals to help prepare the Big Room Theatre for the shows. Please email us at dramaclub@kwoods.org to offer your assistance. All are welcome and appreciated.

IN ADDITION:

The first Drama Club meeting will be held on Monday, September 28th, 2009. We will be discussing MANY things the Drama Club will be involved with throughout the school year, as well as holding elections for our FIVE officer positions. ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND this informative meeting.

Jason and Elissa are excited as to what the year will provide and we look forward to making this another successful and fun season. We hope to see everyone at our next event!

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