



School contact: Jim Perry, 517-545-0828  
Media contact: Nickel Design, Inc., 231-582-9299

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Area High School Recognizes & Celebrates National Charter Schools Week May 1-6, 2006**

HOWELL, MICHIGAN—In conjunction with National Charter Schools Week 2006, Kensington Woods High School celebrates their charter school history with the announcement of new and innovative programs.

Michigan is home to 225 charter public schools, with 12 opened during the 2005-06 year. Just over 5% of the state's total K-12 population attends Michigan charters—more than 92,000 students. Nationally, over a million students are enrolled in 3600 public charter schools in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Charter schools are tuition-free public schools, open to all students.

At Kensington Woods, new spring programs and announcements continue to meet the original mission and goals of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) when it was started twelve years ago. "We are excited to offer innovative programs that help students gain knowledge and experience through real world experiences," says Jim Perry, KWHS Principal. "We hope to be a model for other schools in helping high school students achieve academic excellence as they move on to higher education and career opportunities."

- **PROJECT TERM** allows students to sample the type of electives found at larger schools, without diluting their planned academic programs. The term borrows from the real world expertise and life experiences of faculty to provide an eclectic catalogue of offerings including: Architecture, Motorcycle Maintenance & Repair, Philosophy, Chess, Psychology 101: Introduction to Psychological Disorders, Script Writing & Video Production, Documentary Film, Landscaping, Home Remodeling, to name a few. Students will gain knowledge and expertise in

an area of personal interest in an in-depth, hands-on environment with a teacher/mentor. The four-week sessions enhance, but will not interfere with, Kensington's academic mission or its small class size. Like all Kensington Woods curricula, Project Term requires strict attendance with comprehensive coursework and projects.

- SENIOR INTERNSHIPS require seniors to spend the last several weeks of their Kensington Woods career in a personally chosen placement that will ready them for the real-world transition from high school to work, career, or higher learning. KWHS staff work with area businesses and organizations to expand the skills and reinforce the tools that the students have developed over their high school years.
- After the initial 2005-06 pilot program year, Kensington Woods High School has committed to participate in the MICHIGAN SCHOLARS COURSE OF STUDY, an academically rigorous program that will prepare students for college degrees and the workplace. The program requires students to take four English credits, three higher-level math credits, three and one-half lab science credits and social studies credits. "This initiative is obviously something that fits our profile, and we are excited to participate," says Principal Perry.

In addition to new programs, KWHS will host an **Open House on Wednesday, May 3 from 4-7pm**. The event is open to the general public. Attendees will meet students and faculty members to learn about the educational opportunities available. Fall enrollment applications will also be accepted.

For more information about Kensington Woods, contact principal Jim Perry at 517-545-0828. Kensington Woods is located on the campus of Cleary University, 3700 Cleary Drive, Howell, Michigan, and on the web at [www.kensingtonwoodshs.com](http://www.kensingtonwoodshs.com).

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*Kensington Woods High School is a tuition-free, state-funded high school providing accredited high school diplomas.*