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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Area High School Finds Kindred Spirits in Gates Foundation
Fall Semester Curriculum in Line with Mission

HOWELL, MICHIGAN — With recent press regarding the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and their emphasis on education and health, Livingston County’s Kensington Woods High School (KWHS) noticed their goals and mission, coincidentally, are consistent with the foundation.

Established in 2000, the Gates Foundation dedicated a significant part of the foundation’s mission to address the new “three R’s” of education: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. Significantly, Kensington Woods made the three R’s the guiding principle of its mission years ago. Kensington’s curriculum is built upon academic criteria that is both demanding yet accessible, and pushes students to think critically and analytically. Its relevance connects students to real world problems and real world solutions. “This has been accomplished through optional internship program and our innovative Project Term, where students gain knowledge and expertise in an area of personal interest in an in-depth, hands-on environment,” explains KWHS principal Jim Perry. “And for the third R, KWHS student-staff relationships are strong, providing young adults the guidance needed for the post-graduation careers and civic participation—both key in today’s society. Plus, our small class sizes and very low counselor-to-student ratio underscores this idea.”

“The three R’s are perhaps the simplest, but most useful guide for postmodern education. American students must be academically challenged in a relevant way, and they must be supported in the process,” says Perry. “I see this happening on a daily basis at Kensington Woods, and it gives me a tremendous sense of confidence in what our students will accomplish.”

At Kensington Woods, “R” also stands for raising the bar and reaping the rewards. This fall, Kensington’s advancements support its mission with new, innovative curriculum.

CURRICULUM CHANGES ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN MATH AND SCIENCE INSTRUCTION.

Kensington Woods has adopted new research-based math and science curriculum, which will further enhance the school’s transition to college prep courses. Math teachers will use “Core-Plus,” a four-year integrated program in which algebra, geometry, probability and statistics, and discrete mathematics are visited each year instead of the usual progression of algebra, geometry, advanced algebra and pre-calculus. The student-centered and conceptual-based instruction was developed at Western Michigan University and has received an “exemplary” rating from the United States Department of Education. New Kensington Woods math and science teacher David Coupland was instrumental in choosing the new programs.

Coupland sees Core-Plus as a way to challenge strong students while at the same time engaging weaker students. “Students end up with a better conceptual understanding of math, as opposed to just memorizing formulas,” he says. “The program makes students think more by improving interest and motivation.” In fact, in the 10-year history of the program, statistics have shown that students have regularly chosen to take more math courses.

Science instruction will follow the “Modeling Method” which focuses on investigations and inquiry by students working together. Mr. Coupland spent some time this summer in Phoenix, learning how to implement the new instructional method. Students work in teams of three to solve science problems; through questioning and discussion the students determine the experiments to perform, and then present the results to the class with discussion. In addition to requiring students to think outside of the “recipe” mode of science instruction, Modeling Method helps students develop good listening and communication skills. “I’m not interested in lecturing,” says Coupland. “I like to put the student in the driver’s seat.”

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MAJOR ADDED TO CLEARY DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM.

Kensington Woods’ students can now dually enroll in Cleary University’s Information Technology (I.T.) program, in conjunction with their high school coursework. This new I.T. offering is an addition to the current KWHS dual enrollment business program. All dually enrolled KWHS I.T. and business students will meet together for one day of group instruction, and on the second day, they will separate into their individual focus classes. The 2.5 hours of

instruction per day will allow KWHS students to earn university credits and enter Cleary as sophomores upon graduation. Cleary's I.T. course is the highly regarded computer training program that turns out A+ computer service technicians and Microsoft Network administrators. "With student awareness of high-paying and in-demand I.T. jobs, coupled with the announcement of Google coming to Michigan, students have already shown strong interest in this new program," says Perry.

Kensington Woods is hosting a **Fall Open House on Wednesday, August 23rd from 4-7pm**. The school is located on the campus of Cleary University at 3700 Cleary Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843. For further information, contact Jim Perry at **517-545-0828** or via email at **info@kensingtonwoodshs.com**.

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

Kensington Woods High School is managed by CS Partners, an educational service provider based in Howell. CS Partners uses professional educators and administrators, plus research-tested methods and structures to oversee school management. Their services include, but are not limited to, day-to-day operations, curriculum development, staff training, marketing, grant writing, staff training and curriculum development.