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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spring Coursework Engages Students **At Kensington Woods High School**

HOWELL, MICHIGAN — June 1, 2009 — At Kensington Woods High School in Howell, spring term consists of *Project Term*, a required course that feels more like an innovative elective. One course left yesterday, May 31, for the Appalachian Trail.

The Appalachian Trail Project Term course involves a rigorous trek along the Trail. Twelve students, along with Kensington Woods teacher/guide David Coupland and parent volunteers, left Sunday on a 30-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail. The group will drive to Harper's Ferry, Virginia, a restored Civil War town and national park—and the site of John Brown's doomed raid on the federal arsenal—where they start the hike. Covering eight miles per day, Kensington hikers will cross the Potomac River on a railroad bridge, and then pass the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal tow path, numerous Civil War battlefields and monuments, and stunning mountain ridges and spectacular overlooks. Two nights are spent camping on the Trail and the last night in the luxury of a hotel. Following a day touring the sites in Washington D.C., the group returns home on June 4.

In preparation for the actual trip, Appalachian Trail course students take several practice hikes. On one hike at Isle Royale, Scott A. Amman, P.E., Ph.D., Technical Expert for Ford Motor Company, encountered the Kensington group and sent this email: "I think it's great that Kensington Woods is giving the students a chance to learn some "real world" lessons and skills outside the classroom. A trip like this not only teaches the kids to be self sufficient and prepared, but also shows them how to adapt to changing environmental conditions and overcome adversity."

Originally conceived as a late-spring activity when students were restless and looking for something different, Project Term has become a popular part of the Kensington Woods curriculum. Each two-week Project Term course reflects the interests of its designer, whether a teacher or student. In keeping with Kensington's dedication to academic accountability, all Project Term courses include comprehensive assignments, projects, and assessments.

“Project Term is a serious requirement with a twist,” says principal Jim Perry. “Within the parameters of a structured curriculum, students focus on areas of interest with hands-on and innovative exploration.”

Course options range from subjects such as theatre, environmental studies, and hospitality. Some of this year’s choices included:

- **Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance:** Students study the book of the same name by Robert M. Pirsig, as they restore a 1976 BMW R75 motorcycle.
- **Introduction to Restaurant Design and Management:** Students are introduced to the skills needed to professionally run a restaurant or catering facility while designing their own restaurant.
- **Kensington Woods Metropark Ecosystem:** Students are introduced to the natural world outside their doors through their close study of this suburban green space.
- **Introduction to the World Theatre:** Students learn about acting and technical aspects of theatre while developing an understanding of the creative theatre environment.
- **Think like a King:** Play chess like a master. Teacher Markus Mueneix guides students through the finer points of mastering this intriguing board game.
- **How to Win Friends and Influence People:** With influence from Dale Carnegie’s book, students study body language, conversational skills, leadership, and philosophers such as Machiavelli.

KWHS will host an **Open House and Project Term Night on Tuesday, June 9**. The event gives Kensington students the opportunity to display their projects and share them with the student body and parents. Prospective new students and families are invited to attend **from 5 – 7 p.m.**, where they can meet faculty and tour the school.

For information about the Open House and Project Term Night, visit kwoods.org, or contact Principal Jim Perry at 517.545.0828 or via email at jperry@kwoods.org. Kensington Woods is located on the campus of Cleary University at 3700 Cleary Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843.

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tuition-free, state-funded high school.*

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