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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High School Juniors & Seniors Receive Extra Guidance In Making Post-graduation Plans

HOWELL, MICHIGAN — November 19, 2009 — Kensington Woods High School (KWHS) is looking beyond graduation to prepare its juniors and seniors for college life. A combination of college counseling in addition to programs and on-site university visits is helping students make educated decisions.

“Our goal is to see every student apply and earn acceptance into college,” says Shawn Pollman, Kensington college counselor and math instructor. To reach that goal, Kensington coordinates college and university visits in which representatives introduce Kensington students to programs and campus life at their respective schools.

Unlike traditional college representative’s giving speeches with hand-outs, Kensington students have already toured Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University, and Washtenaw and Lansing Community Colleges for a close-up look at the curriculum, programs, and lifestyles of the various campuses. Students can ask questions, examine the programs and degrees, and get firsthand information about meeting their career interests and goals.

Additionally, “These college visits have helped me get a feel for the campus and whether or not it will fulfill my needs,” says Kaitlyn Hagan, KWHS senior.

Students also attended Lansing Community College’s Career Expo Day. Students selected three areas of interest and then attended the related class sessions for a taste of college coursework.

To smooth the transition into advanced study, Kensington students are closely monitored by Shawn Pollman in her capacity as college counselor. Pollman’s position, in addition to

Kensington's Guidance Counselor Theresa Merrill, makes the student-to-counselor ratio an impressive 100:1 — a better ratio than any other area high school. “We are very fortunate to have advisory times scheduled into our school day,” she says. Students have punch lists (the “to-do” lists for all KWHS upperclassmen) for their graduation and college goals, and they meet with Pollman and Merrill to stay on track. “Our juniors and seniors receive the guidance they need to make informed decisions about their futures.” The students concur: 80% of Kensington's 2009 grads went on to college, university, or technical school, exceeding the national average. “Especially during uncertain economic times, we are emphasizing the importance of post-secondary education,” explains Jim Perry, KWHS principal.

“Kensington Woods has shown me the possibilities beyond high school,” says Kyle Finn, Kensington senior. “I've learned that academics is only one of many important factors to consider when choosing a college.”

For more information about Kensington Woods High School 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. Kensington Woods High School has limited enrollment for interested students moving to Livingston County; transfers also welcome.

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*Kensington Woods High School is a college preparatory,
tuition-free, state-funded high school.*