

August 26, 2022



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Check out my photo (left) with Ali Florea, a teacher at Prass Elementary. Imagine my surprise when I stopped by Prass on the first day of school and saw Ali, who is a kindergarten teacher...and my former student! When you reconnect with a former student who is now a teacher, it does your heart good!

I want to thank everyone – staff, students and families – for an amazing start to the school year! It truly felt like a “normal” start to the year, after two challenging school years, and with our preschoolers starting on Monday and our kindergarteners starting on Wednesday this week, it’s great to have all our students, Pre-K-12, in school and ready to learn and grow!

I do want to outline the three primary goals we, as a district, will be focusing on as we move through the school year. First and foremost is a **Safe Environment**. Our focus will always be on how we can create a safe, secure environment for students to learn and staff to work. Our second focus area is **Behavior Expectations**. Our goal is to have a learning environment where everyone is respectful, responsible and safe, whether they are in the classroom, the cafeteria, the hallway or the playground. Our third focus area is on **Quality Teaching and Learning**, whereby every child who comes through our doors has access to high-quality learning opportunities and we continue to support our talented, creative, committed and caring educators and support staff.

As our district mission notes, it will take all of us working together to meet these goals, and I am looking forward to seeing where this partnership between the schools and our families takes us this year! I embrace an open-door policy in my role as superintendent, and I encourage you to contact me with your questions, comments, concerns or suggestions. I am always happy to hear from you!

Mindy McCarty-Stewart

School and Community News of Interest

(Flies attached in email)

**Kettering Parks
Recreation and Cultural
Arts September
Programs**

**"Future Firebirds"
Kettering Basketball
Club**

**Girl Scouts of Western
Ohio Membership Drive
in Aug. & Sept.**

**Boy Scout Troop 237 –
Girls' Troop Based in
Kettering**

**Boy Scout Troop 112 --
Parent Meeting Sept. 1**

COVID-19 Protocols for 2022-2023 School Year

We will continue to support and respect a person's decision to wear a mask while in our buildings, but this will not be a requirement. As with all aspects of our COVID-19 protocols over the past two years, this is subject to change if circumstances warrant it.

The CDC has streamlined its COVID-19 guidance, and we will continue to follow these guidelines, as we have done in the past. The new guidelines acknowledge that while the pandemic is not over, we do have a better understanding today of the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and the tools to help prevent contracting the virus or lessening the impact, if infected.

CDC guidelines include:

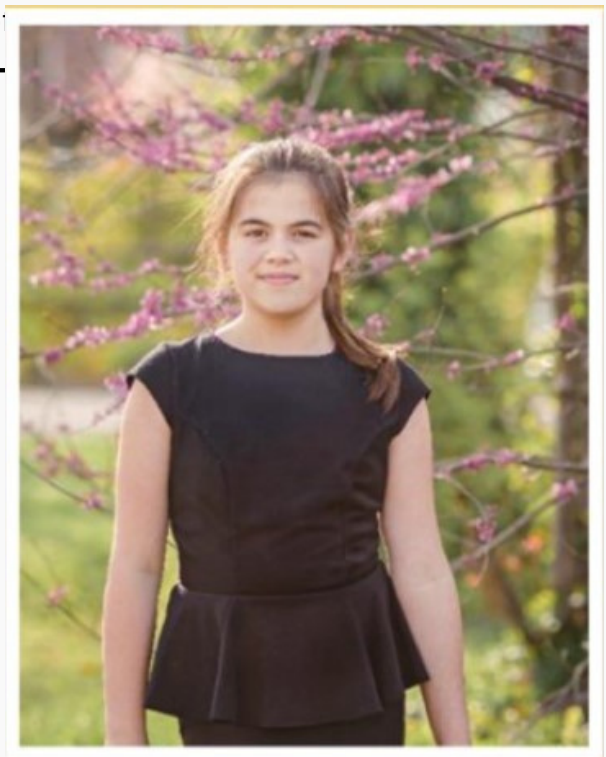
- If a person tests positive for COVID-19, they should stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in the home. If fever-free after 5 days, they can return to school or work and should wear a high-quality mask for an additional 5 days.
- If a person is exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, the CDC no longer recommends quarantining. Instead, they should immediately begin wearing a high-quality mask, test within 48 hours of exposure and re-test 5 days after exposure. As long as the tests are negative, they can continue normal activities and should wear a mask when around other people for a total of 10 days.
- If a person has symptoms of a sore throat, runny nose and stuffiness, they should stay home and get tested. Dr. Colon noted that the symptoms of the new COVID-19 variants manifest themselves very much like a cold or allergies, and some people may assume that this is what they are experiencing. It is very important, if experiencing these symptoms, that you stay home or keep your child home until they receive a negative COVID-19 test.
- While there is no longer a requirement to report positive COVID-19 cases among students or staff, in order to be completely transparent, we will post a COVID-19 dashboard on Fridays. Again, because there is no longer any reporting requirement, the accuracy of this information will be dependent upon the self-reporting of

CONGRATULATIONS

Invention Convention Winners

It is with great pride that we report that 33 elementary students qualified for the Ohio Invention League's 2022 Invention Convention state competition and presented their inventions to the judges this past summer, via zoom. Eight KCS students were state winners, including **Nava Detamore (right)**, an Orchard Park 4th grader, who took the top state prize, the Edison Award.

Invention League is a non-profit organization that gives students the opportunity to enter their inventions in Invention Convention competitions, developed after identifying and researching a



problem, creating an original prototype, testing and redesigning their prototype, tracking their efforts in an Inventor's Logbook and developing a final presentation of their invention.

Congratulations to Kettering Honorable Mention Winners **Chloe Adkins**, 3rd grade at Indian Riffle; **Saif Aljanabi**, 3rd grade at Prass; **Sam King**, 4th grade at Prass; **Ben Smearcheck**, 5th grade at Prass; and **Boyd Holtzman**, 4th grade at Oakview. **Danny Huck**, 3rd grade at Indian Riffle, came in Third Place in the competition; **Natalie Steinhefler**, 2nd grade at Oakview, won the *Industry Innovator Award/Safety*; and **Nava** is the top winner of the *Edison Award*, with her invention, SafeSteps. The student winners at the state level were recognized during a virtual awards presentation on August 6.

Transportation Using New App for Route Information

The KCS Transportation Department is using new routing software this year to set bus stops and a new app to provide families with route information. We realize there has been some confusion with the new StopFinder app and acknowledge that any time something new is introduced, there can be a learning curve as the kinks are worked out and everyone learns how to use the new system.

The new StopFinder app will allow Transportation to push out notifications when, for instance, a bus is running late, a route needs to be canceled or there is a change in a student's bus number.

The new routing system uses a "centralized location" to set bus stops. In other words, the stop location is at a centralized location relative to where the homes of eligible riders are located. This is why some bus stop locations have changed this year. This type of routing provides greater efficiency, something that is important, particularly at a time when the district continues to see a shortage of bus drivers.

Please note the following regarding the StopFinder app:

- (1) If a student is eligible for bus transportation, the KCS Transportation Department emails a link to the parent's/guardian's PRIMARY email address as it is listed in the student's PowerSchool account.
- (2) Parents/guardians will use the link in the email to create a password for their StopFinder account.
- (3) Once the password is created, the parent/guardian will download the StopFinder app on their cell phone and use that password and the PRIMARY email address that is listed in their student's PowerSchool account to set up their StopFinder account.
- (4) The parent/guardian will be able to access transportation information in StopFinder for any student who is tied to their email address in PowerSchool.

(5) If a parent's/guardian's email address has changed, they are asked to go into their child's PowerSchool account and update the email address. Once updated, please email a note to Transportation that you have updated the address, and this will alert them to send the StopFinder password link to you.

(6) If you do not know whether your child is eligible for transportation, you can call or email the Transportation Department and they can let you know.

(7) If you are not able to download the StopFinder app, you can call or email the Transportation Department for assistance.

KCS Transportation Department:

(937) 499-1770

todd.silverthorn@ketteringschools.org, or

henry.mullen@ketteringschools.org, or

regina.smith@ketteringschools.org



Information for High School Parents/Guardians/Students

2022-2023 PSAT

On Wednesday, October 12, sophomores and juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT test. The PSAT is a practice SAT test that is completely optional.

This test is in addition to the PreACT that all 10th and 11th grade students will take on September 13th as a part of College and Career Readiness Day. All interested students need to register using this **PSAT 2022-2023 Registration Form**. Registration will be open from Monday, August 22 through Wednesday, August 31. There is a charge to this test of \$17.

After registering, student accounts will be charged the \$17 for the test. As a reminder the registration deadline is August 31 and we will not be able to add any students after that date.

Underclass Photos September 1

Lifetouch will be in the main gym at the high school to photograph 9th, 10th and 11th-grade students on Thursday, September 1. Students will be called to the gym by their last name to be photographed during the school day.

Questions? Contact Fairmont Yearbook advisor, Judy Costa, at judy.costa@ketteringschools.org