

April
2026



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Lindsey Matkin

Assistant Principals
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Erin LaRue

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970-488-5400

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970-488-5401

Visit our
[website](#)
to learn more about
Kinard.



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Kinard Middle School



Mustang News

Science Olympiad Teams Heading to State

Congratulations to all our Mustangs who participate in Science Olympiad! The hard work and many hours the students have dedicated to the club paid off in huge ways at the regional competition last month! We walked away with an 11th place victory for Red Team, 3rd place for Blue Team, and 2nd place for Gold Team. Blue and Gold Teams will be advancing to the State Competition in Colorado Springs the first weekend in April. Great job, Science Olympians!! And a huge thank you to all the volunteers, coaches, and especially our coordinator Ms. Blumberg for helping us achieve these feats!



continued on next page

Kinard Middle School

Science Olympiad Teams Heading to State

continued



Rotary Students of the Month

Last month, three Kinard students were recognized by the Fort Collins Rotary Club as the Rotary Students of the Month. Congratulations to Lilly, Ayushee, and Bee! You all are amazing representatives of Kinard character and excellence, and we are so proud of each of you!



CLICK IT

Click on the Ads in this Newsletter

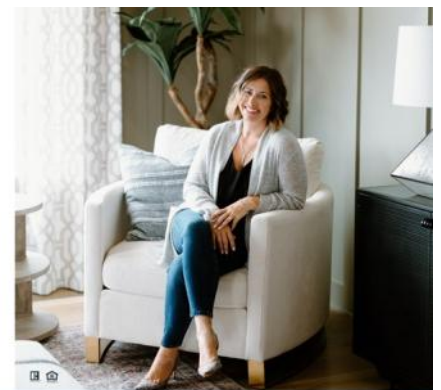
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Kinard Middle School

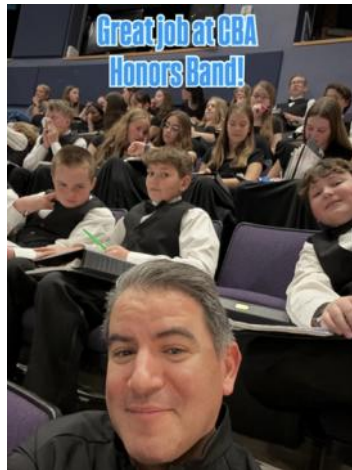
Kinard Student Wins State Spelling Bee!

6th grader Nikhil Ganta won the [Colorado State Spelling Bee](#) title earlier in March after 55 rounds of spelling, capping off his achievement by correctly spelling the word "amaxophobia." Nikhil won the PSD spelling bee in January, claiming his fourth straight district title. C-O-N-G-R-A-T-U-L-A-T-I-O-N-S, Nikhil!



More Celebrations from Our Music Programs!

It's been a busy month for all three music programs with festivals and events galore!



BAND

Congratulations to Mr. Perez and our Honor Band on their adjudication at the Colorado Bandmasters Association Middle School Festival. They traveled to Mountain View High School in Loveland and performed in front of a panel of judges and other middle school band students. They earned straight "1" ratings which is the highest rating a group can receive. This is their fifth straight superior rating at the festival. Way to go, Honor Band!

continued on next page

Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!

Reach parents in your local community & a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school!

Want to sponsor this school?

Please contact Rob Mangelson at Rob@tscacolorado.com or (720) 878-4107.

Health District

Questions about Health Coverage? We Can Help!

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Kinard Middle School

More Celebrations from Our Music Programs! *continued*

CHOIR

Congratulations to all the Kinard singers who participated in the Poudre School District Elementary and Middle School Honor Choir concert at the Lincoln Center in mid-March! It was an incredible concert and showcase of the vocal talent of students all throughout Poudre School District.



continued on next page

Sponsor This School!

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Contact Us
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Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107

Rob@tscacolorado.com

The School Communications Agency
Supporting Schools & Local Businesses



Kinard Middle School

More Celebrations from Our Music Programs! *continued*

ORCHESTRA

We want to congratulate our Symphony Orchestra and Mrs. Griffey on their SUPERIOR rating at the regional Colorado ASTA Festival in early March. Good job, Symphony Orchestra! Now they're headed to the State Festival in April!

Our orchestra students will also be showcasing their achievements and learning this year at the Orchestra Solo & Ensemble Festival, which will be held at Kinard on Saturday, April 11. Performances will be from approximately 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Students have been assigned their performance time by Mrs. Griffey. Families and friends are encouraged to attend!



Kinard Middle School

Winter Sports Celebrations

Congratulations to both our wrestling team and girls basketball teams for great seasons this year!

Our wrestling team continues to be characterized by hard work, excellent conditioning, and high-end sportsmanship. We finished third place at the PSD district wrestling tournament, with four wrestlers taking 1st place in their weight class. We had 17 wrestlers continue on to the northern Colorado regional tournament, 7 of which qualified for the state tournament. At state, we saw three mustangs finish in the top 4!

Our varsity girls basketball team earned a hard fought victory in their final game to earn 3rd place in the district! Contributions from so many players all season long made it possible. Our JV, C, and D teams all had very successful seasons as well, with C team ending undefeated.

We are so proud of all the Mustang athletes and coaches for their great accomplishments and character this season!



Kinard Middle School

Youth Art Month

Last month, some incredible artwork by our very own Kinard Mustangs was on display for the Youth Art Month Show at the Center for Creativity at the Historic Carnegie Library! It's a beautiful display that showcases many talented artists from across PSD. Thanks to Mrs. Houston and Mr. Vizzini for helping our Mustang artists grow their talents and be celebrated for their accomplishments!



Kinard Middle School

Student Leadership: Kinard C.A.R.E.S. Service-Learning Adventure Trip

In March, our Kinard C.A.R.E.S. semester-long class traveled to Catalina Island to participate in an environmental program off the coast of California. Kinard shares a vision of raising environmental awareness while making a difference in our local community. The aim of this class trip is to provide students with authentic and engaging learning experiences that reflect the civic responsibilities that the students will face as citizens in the real world.

While on the island, students engaged in an experiential-based outdoor learning curriculum that taught them important principles about the environment. Using one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet as their classroom, students explored a local watershed and cove and climbed high mountain peaks to learn about healthy ecosystems and to develop interpersonal leadership skills.

While the trip was filled with recreation and adventure, it was far from a vacation. Students participated in a variety of service-learning projects to enhance the Catalina Island community. The primary objective of the service-learning component was an ongoing ecological restoration project designed to help protect the biodiversity on the island. Students removed invasive species and planted new native plants as a part of the regenerative process that Kinard students have been a part of for the past 17 years on the island. Another service project taught students about healthy food choices and composting principles while working in the organic garden on the island.

In addition to learning about sustainable environmental practices, students enhanced their leadership skills and personal growth through team-building activities that included ocean kayaking, hiking to and exploring Parsons Landing, and night snorkeling.

And an extra special legacy moment happened on this trip- one of the camp counselors was a former Mustang who traveled herself to Catalina as a C.A.R.E.S. student back in 2015 and now works for CELP. What a wonderful, full circle moment and real world example of the impact of Kinard C.A.R.E.S. We loved seeing how much you've grown and achieved, Kelsey!

To learn more about Kinard C.A.R.E.S., visit www.kinardcares.org.

Kinard Middle School

Student Leadership: Kinard C.A.R.E.S. Service-Learning Adventure Trip *continued*



(Kelsey leading our group in 2026)



(Kelsey as an 8th grader on the C.A.R.E.S. trip in 2015)

Kinard Middle School

2026 CMAS Assessments

We are so impressed and proud of the incredible work and effort our students have demonstrated this year. Both in and out of the classroom, Kinard students are excelling due to their dedication and hard work. We congratulate and thank our students for their progress thus far!

We will soon begin the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) state standardized assessments. All students in Poudre School District and the state of Colorado take the CMAS assessments. Please continue reading for scheduling details and more information about how our school community uses CMAS results to help ensure high levels of learning for all students and how preparation for and completion of CMAS assessments benefits students. We are proud of our students and our culture of positivity surrounding these assessments.

Our students will be taking the following required assessments for middle school grades this year:

- All grades will take the **English/Language Arts** and the **Math** CMAS assessments.
- 8th grade will also take the **Science** CMAS assessments.

All CMAS assessments are computer-based, therefore it is critical that students bring their PSD assigned laptop and charger to school each testing day. Please help your child to remember to charge his/her computer **every night** and bring the charging cord to school along with the laptop on CMAS days.

At Kinard, CMAS assessments will take place for most students on the following days/times. If your student has a plan that allows for extended time, that time will be added on to the end of the times shown below.

Kinard Middle School

2026 CMAS Assessments

continued

Date	6th and 7th Grades		8th Grade	
Monday, April 6	6th and 7th graders will follow their regular schedule. Monday is odd and Tuesday is even.		8:15-9:50	Science #1
Tuesday, April 7			1:05-2:40	Science #2
	8:15-9:50		8:15-9:50	Science #3
Wednesday, April 8	8:15-9:50	Math #1	8:15-9:50	Math #1
Thursday, April 9	8:15-9:50	Math #2	8:15-9:50	Math #2
Friday, April 10	8:15-9:50	Math #3	8:15-9:50	Math #3
Monday, April 13	8:15-10:15	ELA #1	8:15-10:15	ELA #1
Tuesday, April 14	8:15-10:15	ELA #2	8:15-10:15	ELA #2
Wednesday, April 15	8:15-10:15	ELA #3	8:15-10:15	ELA #3
Thursday, April 16 - Thursday, April 23	Make-Up Testing As Needed			

For detailed daily student schedules, click [here](#). These schedules include modified times for each class period. Students will also receive a printed copy of the CMAS assessment schedule during ELO on Friday, April 3.

Additional CMAS Notes:

The CMAS assessment is designed to measure student mastery of Colorado’s academic content standards. Colorado’s academic content standards indicate skills and knowledge necessary to prepare students for success from early school readiness to postsecondary competencies, including both workforce readiness and 21st century skills. These tests provide valuable information for our school and teachers, who use the data to understand where students are in their learning and tailor instruction

Kinard Middle School

2026 CMAS Assessments

continued

accordingly. The district also uses these results to measure overall student academic progress and identify opportunities for improvement. Furthermore, *the state assessments are a great opportunity for students to practice test taking skills, including how to approach an important test with a mindset that is calm, productive, and focused. We recognize that how adults talk about the assessments greatly influences how students view taking them, and we appreciate you joining us in talking about these assessments as a positive learning opportunity.*

These assessments also provide us with excellent information about your child's individual growth in each content area. Ultimately, CMAS is another very important way we, Kinard staff, get better. The data is invaluable. Our school is an amazing place and we want to continue to see it grow and improve.

- On CMAS assessment days, students will still go to their regular classes but on an alternate schedule.
- Students may bring reading material (sorry, no e-books) as they will be allowed to read or rest quietly after completing each assessment.
- For a successful CMAS experience, please encourage your child to get plenty of rest the night before, eat a healthy breakfast to fuel his/her brain, and bring a positive attitude to show what he/she knows.
- If your child is ill on a testing day, they should not come to school. Please continue to follow the [How Sick is Too Sick](#) guidelines. We will begin make-up testing on April 7 (the 2nd day of testing), and all make-up tests must be completed by April 23.

For more information about state assessments, visit the Colorado Department of Education [website](#) or visit the [PSD District and State Assessments web page](#). If you have any questions about the CMAS assessments, please contact Cecilia Bonertz, School Assessment Coordinator, at cbonertz@psdschools.org or 970-488-5407. Thank you for your support!

Kinard Middle School

8th Grade Celebration

Parents of 8th graders, please save the date of Tuesday, May 26th for our traditional 8th Grade Celebration event this year. This is one of our most anticipated events of the year! Please join us as we recognize the accomplishments of our 8th graders and celebrate their contributions to Kinard as they transition to high school. Please note, we will host the event in the gymnasium of Fossil Ridge High School to allow for more space and seating.

Thank you for your continued time and effort to make this a special event for all! Please contact Erin LaRue, Assistant Principal, at elarue@psdschools.org if you have specific questions about the event.



Kinard Middle School

8th Grade Visit to PSD High Schools

As the next step in the transition process for our 8th graders, there is a high school visit scheduled for Tuesday, April 28. Students will travel by bus from Kinard to the PSD comprehensive high school they are slated to attend next fall to participate in a welcome presentation from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Students will be given a permission form on April 15, and an email will come home to 8th grade families with a copy of the form. A signed permission form must be returned by April 22 to Student Services or by emailing back the form.

We are looking forward to supporting your child during this important transition. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our school counselors: Karen Irvine (last names H-Z) at 970-488-5408 or kirvine@psdschools.org or Patti Young (last names A-G) at 970-488-5406 or pyoung@psdschools.org.

8th Grade Career Fair- Volunteers Needed!

We will host our annual 8th Grade Career Fair on Friday, May 1st and are hoping to utilize some of the expertise in our community.

We are looking for professionals from a variety of careers who are willing to speak with 8th grade students over the course of 80 minutes in a fair-style event. Students will ask questions about what got you interested in your profession, your pathway, and possible courses to explore in high school.

At this time, we are still hoping to add variety to our fair. Based on ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan) surveys, students have interest in the following areas: Interior Design, Actor, Professional Athlete, Marine Biologist, Animator, Veterinarian, Fashion Designer, Dentist, Photographer, Singer, Dancer, Chef, Physical Therapist, and Radiologist. We truly appreciate volunteers from many areas.

If you are interested and available from 7:55-9:40 a.m. on May 1st, please fill out this survey: [Parent Career Survey](#) or contact Karen Irvine at kirvine@psdschools.org or (970)488-5408.

If you have any questions, contact Karen Irvine, (970)488-5408 or kirvine@psdschools.org. Thank you!

Kinard Middle School

Important Yearbook Information

The yearbook is finished! As communicated, only a limited number of extra copies were ordered. We expect to be sold out by yearbook distribution. BUY NOW while supplies last at Jostens.com. If you have already bought a book, thank you!

SRO Corner: Social Media Do's and Don'ts

In today's digital age, social media is a powerful tool that allows students to connect, share, and express themselves. However, with that power comes responsibility. One important "do" is to think before you post. Whether it's a comment, photo, or video, ask yourself if it's respectful, appropriate, and something you'd be proud to have seen by a teacher, coach, or future employer. Another key practice is to protect your privacy—use strong passwords, avoid sharing personal information like your address or school schedule, and adjust your privacy settings so that only trusted people can see your content.

On the flip side, there are critical "don'ts" to keep in mind. Never use social media to bully, harass, or embarrass someone—it can cause real emotional harm and lead to serious consequences at school or even with the law. Avoid engaging in or sharing inappropriate or illegal content, including threats, hate speech, or anything that promotes violence or discrimination. Also, don't assume your posts disappear—screenshots and digital footprints last longer than you think. By following these do's and don'ts, students can use social media in a way that is safe, positive, and respectful for everyone.

Health Office News

Nose who's to blame? Pollen!

Happy April, Kinard Families! With the changing of the seasons and the flowers blooming, we are seeing an increase in seasonal allergies, **sniffing**, **itching**, and **sneezing**. Let's take this time to work to reduce the effects of these allergies by:

- Encouraging good hand washing before touching faces, food, or other items.
- ◇ Encourage students to not touch their face as much as possible.

Kinard Middle School

Health Office News

continued

- Washing backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, etc.
- Face washing to remove dust, pollen, or debris.
- Avoiding triggers as best they can.

Flowers are blooming, and so is our tissue budget. ☹️

Medication Collection Reminder

As this year is coming to a close, reminders for **Medication Collection** begin. Please keep an eye out for emails from the health team as well as phone calls regarding collection.

- The Last Day of school is **Wednesday, May 27**, which is a ½ day. **ALL** medications must be collected by the end of that day.
- Medications **CAN** be collected **anytime between now and May 27th**. If daily medications are picked up before the last day of school, the number of pills needed for the rest of the year can be counted out and kept in the original container at school.
- **Parents** must collect the medications; **NO MEDS** will be sent home with the students.

Please let the health team know if there are any questions or concerns.

Abbie Tusing (Health Technician)

970-488-5441

atusing@psdschools.org

Jena Gilbert, RN (School Nurse)

970-698-0120

jgilbert@psdschools.org

Kinard Middle School

Summer Music Information

For Band and Orchestra students, see the info below about PSD's Summer Music Program, and visit this site for more info: <https://sites.google.com/a/psdschools.org/psd-summer-music/home>

PSD Summer Music– Save the Dates!

Attention 6th and 7th graders in Band and Orchestra:

Beginning/Intermediate Program

(for students who will be in middle school next year)

Monday, July 20 to Friday, August 7 (Monday-Friday)

Locations will be in various places around PSD
(north, east, south, west and central)

Class times are typically between 8am and noon

Watch for registration links and more information at

<https://sites.google.com/a/psdschools.org/psd-summer-music/home>



Attention 8th graders in Band and Orchestra:

Advanced Program

(for students who will be in high school, or just graduated)

Monday, June 1 to Friday, June 12 (Monday-Friday)

Orchestra is typically held at one site and Bands are
typically held at two sites

Class times are typically 9am to 10:30am

Watch for registration links and more information at

<https://sites.google.com/a/psdschools.org/psd-summer-music/home>



Kinard Middle School

Summer School Option for 8th graders

PSD offers an Online HS Summer School option for all PSD graduating 8th graders to seniors. This includes students entering PSD in the 26-27 school year. Students can take multiple courses but will complete one at a time. Information about this year's PSD HS Summer School offerings can be found here: summer.psdschools.org

Summer School will be offered in two sessions.

- Monday, June 1 - 8:00 a.m. - Friday, June 26 – 3:00 p.m.
(Registration open May 2)
- Monday, June 29 - 8:00 a.m. - Friday, July 24 - 3:00 p.m. **(Registration open June 20)**

If you have any questions, you can contact Kinard's school counselors:

Patti Young (last names A-G) at pyoung@psdschools.org or 970-488-5406

or Karen Irvine (last names H-Z) at kirvine@psdschools.org or 970-488-5408

Kinard Middle School

PSD Athletic Equipment Swap

Do you have athletic gear or equipment that your child has grown out of or you no longer need? Or are you looking for some new-to-you equipment for your child? Come check out the PSD Equipment Swap on Saturday, April 4. Details in the flyer and QR code below.



Opportunity to donate athletic equipment that is no longer needed

Opportunity to receive free, donated athletic equipment

PSD EQUIPMENT SWAP

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

The equipment swap supports students who may be facing financial barriers by providing free athletic gear. Students can find equipment for both in-season and off-season sports.

View more information and register here:



Event will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Fort Collins High School, 3400 Lambkin Way, Fort Collins, CO

HOSTED BY Poudre School District Student Advisory Council

<https://www.psdschools.org/academics/psd-student-advisory-council-stac>

Kinard Middle School

FRHS Cheer Opportunities

See the flyers below for tryout information for incoming 9th graders.



Join Our Fossil Cheer Family!

We are looking for athletes to join our Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleading teams! Our team proudly supports a variety of sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, and wrestling, while also competing at local, state, and national levels.

When and where?

Pre-Tryout Clinic:

Wednesday, April 8th, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Tryouts Day 1:

Thursday, April 16th, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Tryouts Day 2:

Friday, April 17th, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Final Tryout Day:

Saturday, April 18th, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

ALL DAYS
AT FRHS



REGISTER NOW AT FRHSCHEER.COM

Kinard Middle School

Bethke Elementary Spring Social

Calling all former Bobcats! All families and former Bethke students and community members are invited to attend Bethke's Spring Social and the Celebration of Mrs. Alfonso's Retirement. See the flyer below for details.



Kinard Middle School

Healthy Kids Running Series

See the flyer or scan the QR code to learn about this great community opportunity for all the runners out there.

Public School District is providing this information only as public service. The District is neither recommending nor endorsing the subject of this communication.



Fort Collins, CO



Sundays 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/17 @ 2:00 pm (5/10 Rain Date)

Kruse Elementary School
4400 Mcmurry Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80525

DIVISION	DISTANCE
Pre-K 2/3yr	50 Yard Dash
Pre-K 4/5yr	75 Yard Dash
Challenger	75 Yard Dash
K & 1st	1/4 Mile
2nd & 3rd	1/2 Mile
4th & 5th	1 Mile
6th, 7th, 8th	1 Mile

*All races will be the same distances each week.

For more information, please contact
Amanda Kramer at 563-503-6513
fortcollinsco@healthykidsrs.org

HKRS is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit.

SCORING/DETAILS

- Points awarded based on finish
- T-shirts for runners who register for full Series
- Medals for ALL runners on Week 5
- Scan QR code and check race description on website for trophy details.

Scan the code to Register Today.



EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

\$48.70 FULL SERIES

Or less FIVE WEEK SERIES*

UNTIL THREE WEEKS FROM START DATE

\$54

Or Less

FULL SERIES*

\$16.90 SINGLE RACE

Or less WALK-UP*

ONLY OFFERED DAY-OF

Online registration available only. No cash accepted.

*Includes processing fees. Registration is nonrefundable. Single day registration does NOT include t-shirt.

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Kinard Middle School

CSU's Introduce a Girl to Engineering

Visit <https://coloradostate.swe.org/outreach/> or see the flyer below for an awesome opportunity for girls interested in STEM and Science fields.

