

April
2025



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Assistant Principals
Kyle Healy
Erin LaRue

Main Line
970-488-5400

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970-488-5401

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



Page 1

Kinard Middle School



Mustang News

Orchestra Performs at National Festival

The Kinard Symphony Orchestra performed at the National Orchestra Festival (NOF) in Atlanta, GA on March 21, 2025. They were one of 12 middle school orchestras from around the nation invited to perform for a panel of esteemed judges and clinicians. Additionally, they had a piece commissioned by Susan H. Day which they premiered at NOF in honor of Hal Kinard and our school's 20th anniversary. Other composers whose music they performed and who were present at the concert include: Deborah Baker Monday, Cameron Law, and Tyler Arcari. They also listened to many other middle school and high school orchestras from around the nation.

Our orchestra students also went to the Georgia Aquarium where they saw sea lions, whale sharks, and more! They attended a performance of the Atlanta Symphony, visited the Centennial Olympic Park, and Martin Luther King Jr's birthplace, including a "sneak peek" visit INSIDE the Ebenezer Church as they prepared for their morning worship service!

Additionally, prior to the trip to Atlanta, Mrs. Griffey and the Symphony Orchestra performed a Pre-NOF Concert/Clinic at Fort Collins High School. Not only were they able to receive feedback for improvement from guest clinician, John Hermanson, FCHS Orchestra Director, but they were able to play their pieces for some of the composers themselves, as well as family members of Kinard's namesake, the late Mr. Hal Kinard. What a special moment this was!



continued on next page

Kinard Middle School

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Orchestra Performs at National Festival

continued



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Kinard Middle School

Is it just a phase?



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MathCounts State Competition

The Kinard MathCounts team won first place at the Colorado state competition! The team made up of Neo Luo, Erika Tang, Joseph Lee, and Angela Wang earned the highest average score over the 4 rounds of the competition to take home the first-place trophy. We also had four students place in the top 10 in the state, meaning that they had to go head-to-head answering complex math questions in front of an auditorium of spectators. Yihan Jing (10th), Joseph Lee (9th) and Erika Tang (8th) all faced-off against each other to secure their rankings. Michael Luo and Think Le also competed at the state championships and did an amazing job in their two events. Neo Luo placed 3rd and will be part of a team of four students from several schools representing Colorado at the National MathCounts competition in Washington DC in May. Coach Alicia Williams will also be traveling with the team as the Colorado Team Coach. Way to go, Coach Williams and our Mustang mathematicians!



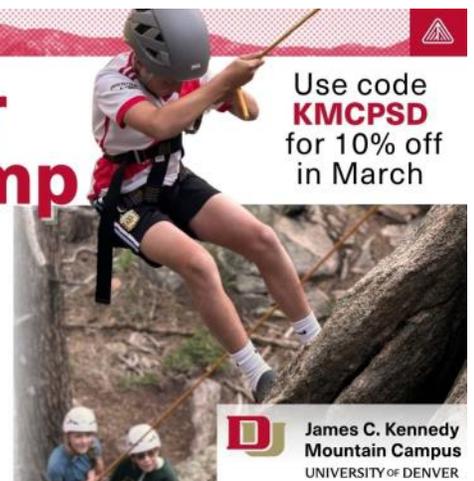
3-Day Summer Adventure Camp

P.A.S.S. Camp at Kennedy Mountain Campus
RED FEATHER LAKES, CO

Use code **KMCPSD** for 10% off in March



Ages 9-15
\$600 per session
Learn more & enter to win a free session!



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Kinard Middle School

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! With more students than ever, we had four full teams competing. Our gold team placed second out of 33 competing teams, only 20 points behind the first place team. Our blue team took fifth place, the red team was 14th, and team Morty placed 21st. The gold and the blue teams will be headed to the state competition on April 5. Many students from all four teams earned medals in their individual events! Congrats to all of our Science Olympians, our many coaches, and our Science O coordinator, Mrs. Murphy!



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.

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Se Habla Español

Kinard Middle School

More Celebrations from Our Music Programs!

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

BAND

Both the Symphonic and Honors Bands participated in the Colorado Bandmasters Association (CBA) Festival in March. Both groups were judged on their musical achievement by a panel of music educators and were watched by other middle schools. The Symphonic Band travelled to Mountain View High School to perform in front of several area middle schools and were evaluated by a panel of adjudicators. Symphonic Band was only two points away from perfect scores from both judges! Then, the Honors Band travelled to Englewood High School for their chance to perform as part of CBA. The Honors Band was only five points away from a perfect score and received high praise from their judges as well. Great job, Mr. Perez and all our band students who performed at CBA!



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Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107

Rob@tscacolorado.com

The School Communications Agency
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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. We also want to give a shout out to Mr. Scott Wheeler who directed the elementary honor choir and served as the PSD Honor Choir coordinator.



ORCHESTRA

We want to congratulate our Symphony Orchestra and Mrs. Griffey on their SUPERIOR rating at the regional CASTA festival in early March. The judges commented on their high level of skill and how they sounded like a high school orchestra. Good job, Symphony Orchestra! Now they're headed to the State Festival in April!



2025 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.

Date	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Monday, April 7	8:15 – 9:50 Math #1	8:15 – 9:50 Math #1	8:15 – 9:50 Math #1
Tuesday, April 8	8:15 – 9:50 Math #2	8:15 – 9:50 Math #2	8:15 – 9:50 Math #2
Wednesday, April 9	8:15 – 9:50 Math #3	8:15 – 9:50 Math #3	8:15 – 9:50 Math #3 1:05 – 2:50 Science #1
Thursday, April 10			8:15 – 10:05 Science #2
Friday, April 11			8:15 – 10:05 Science #3
Monday, April 14	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #1	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #1	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #1
Tuesday, April 15	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #2	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #2	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #2
Wednesday, April 16	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #3	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #3	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #3

For detailed daily student schedules, click [here](#) for ELA testing days and [here](#) for math and 8th grade science testing days. These schedules include modified times for each class period. Students will receive a printed copy of the CMAS assessment schedule for the following week during ELO on Friday, April 4, and Friday, April 11.

continued on next page

Kinard Middle School

2025 CMAS Assessments

continued

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 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, and contact our assessment coordinator to discuss make-up options.

Kinard Middle School

2025 CMAS Assessments

continued

Opting out of assessments:

Schools are required by the state to administer statewide assessments to students in grades 3-11 in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. Also, as required by the state, PSD has implemented a policy about excusing students from state assessments. To excuse your student from state assessments, complete a Parent Excusal form digitally by logging into [ParentVUE](#) and following these [instructions](#). Please note that you will need to fill out a form for each subject area.

You may also print a PDF version of the "2024-25 Opt Out of State Testing Form" and return it to your school. Forms are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Arabic](#).

If you decide to opt out, you may keep your student home during our scheduled grade level testing times, and absences will be excused. We will also provide a study hall where students may sit quietly or read a book, according to state guidelines. Students may not have phones or computers in study hall.

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 Wednesday, May 28th 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 Monday, 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 about 10 days prior to the event and an email will come home to 8th grade families. A signed permission form must be returned to school prior to the trip.

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.

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: Bicycle Safety

Hello PSD families, it is hard to believe it is already April! This month, we felt it was important to discuss bicycle safety as warmer weather approaches.

As the weather starts to warm up, you are likely to see more bicycle riders to and from school. If your student rides their bicycle to school, please make sure that your student is taking measures to keep themselves safe! First and foremost, wear a helmet! Please ensure that your student wears their helmet and that you, as parents, demonstrate safe practices by wearing one yourself while on a bicycle or scooter.

While traveling on a bicycle or scooter, please use the bicycle lanes and travel on the right side of the road, going the same direction of traffic. While crossing, use the crosswalks and make eye contact with drivers before crossing to ensure that you are seen. We are seeing a lot of students that are wearing earbuds while riding. While this can make a more entertaining ride,

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner: Bicycle Safety

continued

please remember that it is important to hear cars and other things around you. Consider using ear buds that allow noise around you or only using one.

As drivers, please be aware that there will be more bicycles on the road. Please remember that school zones are 20 mph and to be extra vigilant in these areas. Remember to take an extra look when pulling out of street parking outside of schools as bicycles may be coming from behind you.

Summer School Option for 8th graders

PSD Online HS Summer School is almost here and will remain free to all PSD graduating 8th graders to seniors. This includes students entering PSD in the 25-26 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.

- Tuesday, April 1 - 8:00 am - Thursday, May 22 – 3:00 pm (Registration open March 3)
- Monday, June 2 - 8:00 am - Friday, June 27 - 3:00 pm (Registration open May 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

PSD STEM-X Camp

Blevins Middle School is proud to host the [STEM-X 2025](#) Summer Camp for the first time this summer from June 9-13. STEM-X is a fun, exploratory, hands-on all day summer camp offered by Poudre School District for incoming 4th through incoming 8th graders.

Join our [Insiders' List](#) for updated information about the STEM-X Summer Camp. Insiders' List emails will include information on camp registration (opening in April), classes, general information, and other relevant updates.

FRHS Cheer Opportunities

See the flyers below for tryout information for incoming 9th graders, as well as Jr. SaberCat Cheer opportunities for younger students.

FOSSIL RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
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CHEER

CHEER TRYOUTS

CLINICS APRIL 9TH AND 16TH

TRYOUTS APRIL 24TH, 25TH AND 26TH

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
 NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

VISIT FRHS-CHEER.COM OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

FOSSIL RIDGE

JR. SABERCATS

REC CHEER

TRYOUTS SAT. MAY 3RD

AT FOSSIL RIDGE HS
FROM 11AM-2:00PM

GET READY FOR SCHOOL STYLE BUDGET-FRIENDLY CHEERLEADING FUN THAT'LL MAKE YOU FLIP WITH JOY! WITH A MANAGEABLE PRACTICE SCHEDULE AND 3-4 IN-STATE COMPETITIONS, KIDS AGES 3-14 CAN LEVEL UP THEIR CHEER SKILLS WHILE HAVING A BLAST!

★★★★★

EMAIL:
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 FOR OUR TRYOUT PACKET AND MORE INFORMATION

JR SABERCATS CHEER

MINI CLINIC

June 12th and 13th
 9AM-noon @ Fossil Ridge High School
 Pre-K to 8th Grade
 \$80

Register today at FRHS-CHEER.COM

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.

PRESENTED BY CSU SWE

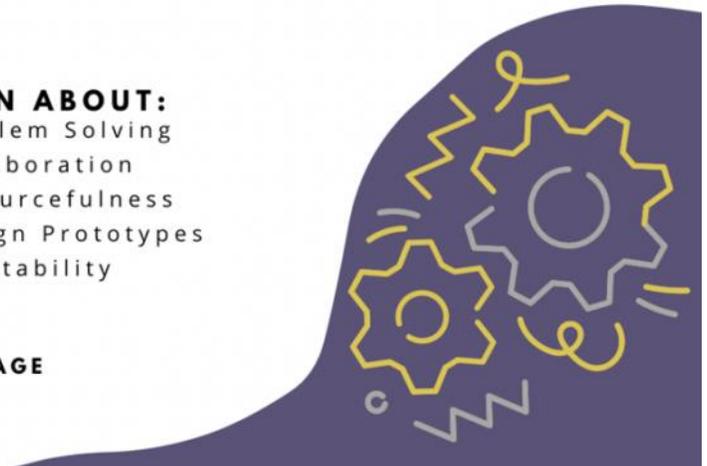
INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

LEARN ABOUT:

- Problem Solving
- Collaboration
- Resourcefulness
- Design Prototypes
- Adaptability

@CSUIAGE



CSU's Spring into Art Making

See the flyer below for a variety of creative, art-based activities and experiences to celebrate springtime and the visual arts.



Spring into Art Making

You're invited to get creative with the CSU Arts Management program alongside our partners: CSU School of Music, Theater, and Dance, City of Fort Collins, Jacquard, Yasutomo, and the Silver Grill Cafe for a series of art making pop-ups to celebrate springtime in Colorado. We're also joined by our artist partners, CSU staff and students, and volunteers.

Channel your inner artist with activities of cyanotype murals, botanical ink painting, book binding and recycled patch embroidery, block printing, and performances by the CSU's Dance and Ralph Opera programs. All programming is free and inclusive for all. Please visit fcgov.com/ccp for more information.

Event Line-Up

Center for Creativity at the Historic Carnegie Library

Date: Sunday, April 13, 2025

Time: 2:00-3:30pm

[Get Directions](#)

Art Making Activities & Performance

- Cyanotype Murals with Charlie Bloede
- Botanical Ink Painting with [Sarah Mays Studio](#)
- Book Binding with Bethany Economos of [Somonoce Studio](#)
- Urban Sketching with David Pyle
- Japanese Ink Marbling
- Performance by CSU Dance

Opera Galleria

Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

[Get Directions](#)

Art Making Activities & Performance

- Cyanotype Murals with Charlie Bloede
- Botanical Ink Painting with [Sarah Mays Studio](#)
- Urban Sketching with David Pyle
- Crochet Flowers with Anna Lee Brown
- Japanese Ink Marbling

Lory Student Center

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025

Time: 1:00-2:45pm

[Get Directions](#)

Art Making Activities

- Cyanotype Murals with Charlie Bloede
- Block Printing with Liz Oritz of [Mad Hare Studio](#)
- Japanese Ink Marbling
- Performance by CSU's Ralph Opera Program

University Center for the Arts at the Gregory Allicar Museum

Date: Saturday, April 19, 2025

Time: 2:00-3:30pm

[Get Directions](#)

Art Making Activities

- Cyanotype Murals with Charlie Bloede
- Recycled Patch Embroidery with Bethany Economos of [Somonoce Studio](#)
- Urban Sketching with David Pyle
- Japanese Ink Marbling



Art Making Activities

Cyanotype Murals

April 13, 15, 17, & 19

Using the sun's rays, create intricate monoprints from everyday objects! First discovered in 1842, cyanotype uses the sun's rays to reveal detailed silhouettes set against a field of Prussian blue. Make botanical arrangements out of leaves and flowers, design mandalas with stones and string, or bring your own unique items to add to the mural.

Japanese Ink Marbling

April 13, 15, 17, & 19

Suminagashi is the Japanese art of water marbling in which liquid sumi ink is dropped onto water to create beautiful marbled patterns, then prints are pulled on washi paper. Join us for an introduction to this process that's easy to learn, highly meditative, and remarkably versatile.

Urban Sketching

April 13, 15, & 19

Urban sketching is a great way to enjoy your community. You'll see, hear, and remember things about the experience that you'd never have otherwise. Do you have to have 'talent'? Heck, no! This isn't about making 'great' art. It's about seeing and engaging with your community in highly enjoyable ways. All you need is your 'adventurous spirit' when you join us and we'll provide the materials and simple instruction for you to take a first step into capturing the world around you through drawing and sketching.

Botanical Ink Painting

April 13 & 15

Learn how to harness the unique properties of acrylic ink with Sarah Mays Studio, enabling you to develop solid shapes of color, mesmerizing patterns reminiscent of tie dye, and beautiful gradations that breathe life into your botanical subjects. Please note that these acrylic inks stain.

Book Binding and Recycled Patch Embroidery

April 13 & 19

Bethany Economos is a mixed media artist whose work is often influenced by her surroundings and current events. Her background in Fiber Arts (BFA Tyler School of Art 2001) shows in the hand embroidered stitching and the other surface design techniques.

Crochet Flowers

April 13

Learn to make crochet flowers! We'll provide the yarn and tools for you to use simple crochet stitches to create beautiful flower forms.

Block Printing with Liz Ortiz

April 17

Liz Ortiz of Mad Hare Press is a Latina multidisciplinary artist based in Fort Collins, Colorado. Liz specializes in various printmaking techniques and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) with concentrations in Photo Image Making and Printmaking from Colorado State University. During her academic career, she focused on intaglio, lithography and woodcut printmaking methods along with analog B&W photography.