

October
2026



Principal
Lindsey Matkin

Assistant Principals
Kyle Healy
Erin LaRue

Main Line
970-488-5400

Attendance Line
970-488-5401

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



Page 1

Kinard Middle School



Mustang News

Community Extravaganza

Our fifth annual Community Extravaganza and Wellness Fair was a huge success! We loved seeing our community come together for some good food, fun, socializing, and connecting with community partners. Thank you to all who came out to this event in early September and to the many local businesses who helped us to make it a success! Go Mustangs!



Kinard Middle School

7th Graders Participate in P.E. Field Trip & Spark Interviews

Our 7th grade class once again had the opportunity to participate in some fun and unique learning experiences this fall. Mr. Benson, Mrs. Jordan, and their P.E. students took advantage of the beautiful Colorado fall weather and some local resources to provide all 7th graders with an exceptional field trip experience at Colorado Youth Outdoors. Colorado Youth Outdoors exists to build relationships through traditional outdoor recreation. While at CYO, all students had the opportunity to rotate through stations, including archery, fishing, BB guns, and orienteering skills, run by trained professionals. At each station, students learned about safety and how to follow the instructor's guidelines in order to participate in the various outdoor activities.

While some 7th graders were on the field trip, we had the unique opportunity in the building to conduct "Spark Interviews" with the 7th graders who remained in their classes each day. As part of the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) process, Kinard staff members personally interviewed every 7th grader to learn about their hobbies, academic interests, and visions for their futures. Our goal is to connect with each child individually to learn more about their personal "sparks" or areas of passion and how our school can support the vision that students are creating for themselves.



continued on next page

CLICK IT

Click on the
Ads in this
Newsletter

...to learn more about
these great companies!

Your Fish Guy

Aquarium services

- Free estimates
- Consultation
- Installation
- Cleaning

Live Plants/Living Ecosystems | 970-430-6402 | michael@freshflowaquatics.com

Kinard Middle School

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!

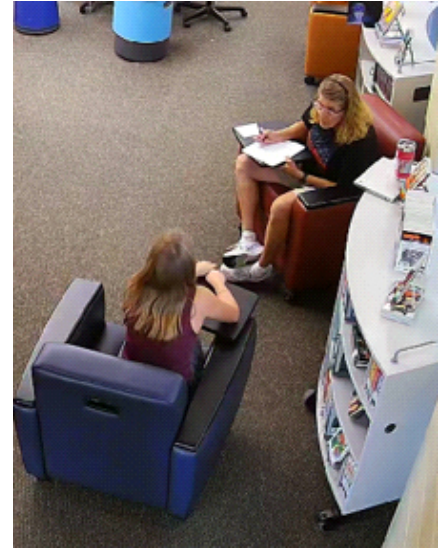
Want to sponsor this school?

Please contact

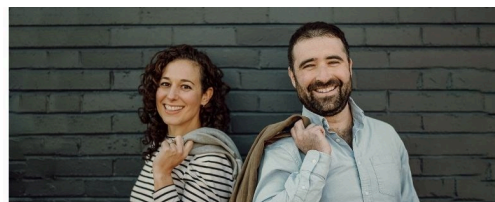
Rob Mangelson at
Rob@tscacolorado.com or
(720) 878-4107.

7th Graders Participate in P.E. Field Trip & Spark Interviews

continued



continued on next page



EVERGREEN
PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

SEEING STRENGTHS.
REVEALING SOLUTIONS.

- Psychological evaluations for children ages 2.5- adults
- Clarity for complex questions
- Timely, thorough evaluations
- Evaluations for ADHD, Autism Spectrum, Emotional and Behavioral Conditions, Learning Differences, Twice Exceptional Evaluations

www.evergreenpsychevals.com
720.442.0716



**Health
District**

**Questions
about Health
Coverage?
We Can Help!**

LarimerHealthConnect.org • 970-472-0444

Se Habla Español

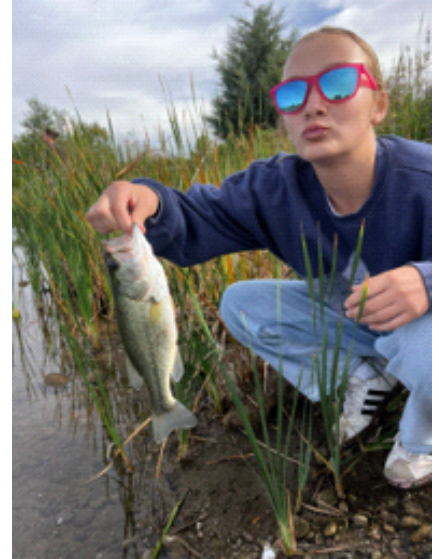
In Honor of Hal Kinard

We Can and We Will

Kinard Middle School

7th Graders Participate in P.E. Field Trip & Spark Interviews

continued



the LINCOLN center

**Complexions Contemporary
Ballet: Love Rocks**
October 20

Featuring
the music of
Lenny Kravitz



Starting at \$35

**National Geographic LIVE:
Adventure for Change**
November 12



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC | LIVE | Speaker Series

Starting at \$29

**Jim Henson's Fraggle Rock:
Back to the Rock LIVE**
November 14



Starting at \$35

LCtix.com



City of
Fort Collins

Kinard Middle School

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Kinard's Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for **Thursday, October 1, and Tuesday, October 6, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

Conferences on both October 1 and 6 will be 5-minute drop-in style conferences in our cafeteria and gymnasiums. You can come and chat with any of your child's teachers without having to sign up ahead of time. In an attempt to balance lines and wait times for each evening, we suggest that families with last names A-L attend on October 1 and those with last names M-Z attend on October 6.

Our School Resource Officer, Kate Garcia, will also be on site both evenings to answer any questions you might have regarding her role at Kinard, student safety, or internet safety. Stop by her table in the cafeteria to learn more!

Please note: Some of our part-time teaching staff or teachers who are coaching fall sports will be attending only portions of these evenings. You can expect direct emails from any teacher who won't be available both evenings, so you'll know when to connect with them.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are a great way to meet your child's teachers, learn about your child's classes, ask individual questions about your child's academic progress, and gain insight into a variety of school resources to support your child's learning throughout the year. We understand that 5 minute conferences may not be enough time to discuss concerns and also that the need to communicate with teachers can arise throughout the

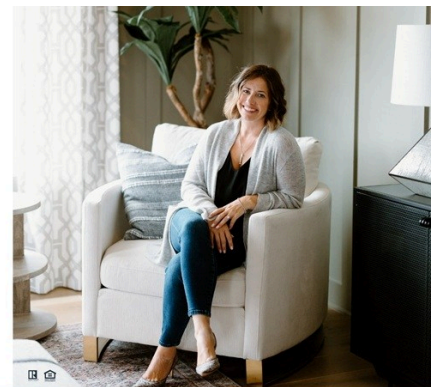
continued on next page



**Your Family's
Future Starts Here**

WORK WITH SARAH TYLER

your local realtor



Kinard Middle School

Parent/Teacher Conferences

continued

school year; therefore, you may contact any of your child's teachers at any point throughout the school year to discuss any concerns or questions you may have. [Click here to visit our online staff directory.](#)

Additionally, because of the number of students that each middle school teacher serves, we know we cannot visit with every family and that conference lines are often long. You can also communicate with teachers via email or view your child's progress in each class via [ParentVUE](#). Parent/guardian attendance is not required at conferences, though we do want to offer this opportunity for those interested.

If you have any questions about parent/teacher conferences, please contact Erin LaRue, Assistant Principal, at elarue@psdschools.org or at (970)488-5410.

Student Picture Retake Day

Skillman Photography will be returning to Kinard on Thursday, October 22, starting at 7:30 a.m. for our final school picture opportunity of the year. If your child has not had his/her individual student photo taken this year or you would like a retake, please bring them to school a bit early to ensure time to have the photo taken before class starts at 8:15.

Click [here](#) to preview package options and/or order online using school code **KCMS2026**. Order forms are also available in Kinard's main office and from the photographer. If you have questions, please call the Kinard main office at (970)488-5400.



STEM 4 KIDS

IS YOUR 4TH-8TH GRADER INTERESTED IN STEM?

SIGN UP FOR A STEM 4 KIDS EVENT!

A FREEAFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM DESIGNED TO BUILD STUDENTS' CONFIDENCE IN STEM WITH FUN HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES!

HOSTED AT CSU ENGINEERING FROM 4-6:30PM ON ALTERNATING THURSDAYS!

REGISTER YOUR STUDENT!





EVENT DATES:
9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3

EMAIL: STEM4KIDS.CSU@GMAIL.COM

FOLLOW US: [@CSU_STEM4KIDS](https://www.instagram.com/CSU_STEM4KIDS)



PSDMSD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS PROVIDING THIS INFORMATION ONLY AS A PUBLIC SERVICE. THE DISTRICT IS NEITHER RECOMMENDING NOR ENDORSING THE SUBJECT OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

Kinard Middle School

C.A.N.S. Around the Oval

The Kinard Global Leadership class is hosting their annual C.A.N.S. Around the Oval fundraiser this fall to help people in our community suffering from food insecurity. Thousands of people in our community don't know when they are going to get their next meal. You can make a difference by sending non-perishable items or money with your child to bring to their 1st period class. You can also contribute directly to the Larimer County Food Bank using the QR code attached. C.A.N.S. Around the Oval started on Wednesday, September 23, and will end on Tuesday, October 13. Our goal is to raise \$6,000 and 5,000 pounds of food so that people with food insecurity can have meals to eat. The first period class in each grade with the most donations will get an amazing prize! If you have any questions, please contact Marc Pravlik, Kinard Global Leadership teacher, at marcp@psdschools.org. Thanks for your support!





**COLORADO OCD
& ANXIETY TREATMENT**

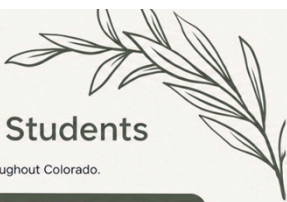
Evidence-based care. Compassionate support. Lasting change.

BOULDER | FORT COLLINS

Specialized OCD & Anxiety Treatment

For Middle & High School Students

Evidence-based therapy for OCD, anxiety, and related concerns.
In-person care in Boulder & Fort Collins, with telehealth available throughout Colorado.



SPECIALTIES

- OCD & Intrusive Thoughts
- Anxiety & Phobias
- Perfectionism
- School-Related Anxiety & Avoidance
- Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors
- Family Accommodation
- Trauma-Related Concerns

EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT

- Exposure & Response Prevention (ERP)
- Inference-Based CBT (I-CBT)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT)
- EMDR
- SPACE Parent Support

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT FOR TEENS & FAMILIES

Helping students better understand and manage OCD, anxiety, intrusive thoughts, perfectionism, phobias, and related concerns.

READY TO CONNECT?

(720) 213-6077 • info@coloradoocdanxietytreatment.com
Boulder • Fort Collins • Telehealth Throughout Colorado
www.coloradoocdanxietytreatment.com

Kinard Middle School

Counselors' Corner

October is Futures Month: We use October to look at interests, ideas for future pathways, and what is called ICAP – Individual Career and Academic Plan. Staff will have “Ask Me About” signs on their doors about the colleges they have attended, there will be information shared about post-secondary options, and counselors will be working with students on ICAP activities using a platform called Xello. Students from all 6-12th grade levels in PSD use Xello to explore their ICAP. In addition, there will be daily announcements, a scavenger hunt, and we are **encouraging everyone to wear their favorite college gear every Wednesday during October.**



8th Grade Career & College Fair at CSU: In partnership with Colorado State University, Poudre School District's Career & Innovation Team is hosting this annual career exploration field trip for all 8th grade PSD students. The goal of this event is to support 8th grade students in learning about options and careers in high school and beyond. While at the event, students will attend one career cluster divided into two pathway breakout sessions. Kinard 8th graders will be attending **Tuesday, October 6th**. Permission forms were being distributed through social studies classes on September 21 and 22. ***Field trip permission forms are due Thursday, October 1st. More information to follow.***

Parent/Guardian Info Session: Have you ever wondered how to get your child interested in a career pathway for the future or to support them in exploring graduating with options? Are you curious about tools that can help them navigate their plan? If so, we invite you to join our counselors, Karen Irvine and Patti Young, on **Thursday, October 22 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** for a hands-on

continued on next page

Sponsor This School!

YOUR NAME HERE

Click [HERE](#)
Contact Us
Today!

Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107

Rob@tscacolorado.com

The School Communications Agency
Supporting Schools & Local Businesses

The School Communications Agency logo, featuring a stylized 'C' inside a circle.
The School Communications Agency

Kinard Middle School

Counselors' Corner

continued

demonstration related to what our students are learning about their Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) and the web-based system, Xello, that PSD uses to explore and save portions of students' ICAPs. We will meet in the Kinard Media Center. Parents of all grade levels are welcome. You can reserve a spot by emailing Karen (kirvine@psdschools.org) or Patti (pyoung@psdschools.org) if you are planning to attend. You will need your student's school computer for this event.

[Parent Career Survey](#): We know we have a wealth of knowledge in our community and would love to tap into your professional experience. Please fill out this [survey](#), if you would be interested in potentially being called upon to share your career with students.

Throughout each school year, there are occasions where we may call upon professionals from our community to share some insights with students about career and future planning. We will use contact information compiled through the survey for experiences such as career fairs or individual student career mentorships/interviews. If you complete the survey, we may contact you based on student interest in your career field.

Student Laptops

Please help your student to remember to bring their ***fully charged laptop to school every day***. Each classroom has only one spare laptop, and any remaining inventory is used for students with laptops being repaired. Therefore, it is critical that students bring their assigned laptops, fully charged, to school to engage in learning each day. Thank you!

Kinard Middle School

Support for Families in Need

We are heading into the time of year where some community organizations are offering support to families in a variety of ways (e.g., food baskets, coats, holiday gifts, etc.). We know there are circumstances families face that create needs for support. If your family would like to be considered for support, please fill out this linked confidential [Google survey](#) that our counselors will use to get you connected to helpful resources. While we cannot guarantee that an organization can fulfill every request, we want to gather information to best support our families where possible. You can also click on this link to access community resources: [211](#)

Please reach out to our school counselors with any questions:

Patti Young (student last names A-G): (970) 488-5406, pyoung@psdschools.org

Karen Irvine (student last names H-Z): (970) 488-5408, kirvine@psdschools.org

School Accountability Committee

Our second School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting will be held on **Monday, October 26, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Kinard Media Center**. The Kinard School Accountability Committee meets four times per year, approximately quarterly. The SAC is a wonderful opportunity to enhance our partnership with parents through an organized group composed of both parents and teachers at Kinard. The SAC has a very specific focus, established by the Colorado Department of Education and Poudre School District. Primary topics for analysis and discussion will include budget allocation and Kinard's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). Other topics that may be discussed in this committee include but are not limited to: parent involvement, student transitions, curriculum, instruction, assessment, systems for support, communication, technology, leadership, decision-making, positive behavior support, and school-wide capacity building. We welcome any parent to attend our next meeting, even if you were unable to join our first quarter meeting.

Kinard Middle School

Lost and Found

Has your student misplaced a water bottle, lunchbox, jacket, or other belongings at school? Have them come check the lost and found in our main office- it is overflowing with student items! We donate any items remaining in our lost and found at the end of each month. Also, please encourage your child to write their first and last name on items they bring to school, especially water bottles and lunch boxes. We return any items that have student names on them directly to the individual.

Important Yearbook Information

The 2026-27 Kinard yearbook is available for purchase! Make sure that your child doesn't miss out on our yearbook tradition. It's the only book that captures the year's events, activities, friendships, experiences, and memories from Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School. You may place your order for the yearbook at jostens.com. If you have already purchased a book, thank you! If you are unsure, please contact Ally Lonac, Yearbook Advisor, by email at alonac@psdschools.org. This year's book is one you won't want to miss!

8th Grade Parents/Guardians:

It is that time of year that we collect orders for the famous 8th grade recognition ads (baby ads) that you see in the back of the yearbook each year. See the [attached flier](#) for all the ordering details. A paper copy of the flier will be mailed home to you, so please be on the lookout for it. Included with the mailer is a reminder to purchase a yearbook (if you have not yet and would like one), as well as a reminder to submit a baby photo for our 8th grade celebration slideshow at the end of the year (if you did not submit one already last year). Email questions to Ally Lonac at alonac@psdschools.org.

Kinard Middle School

School-Sponsored Club Updates & Reminders

Science Olympiad: Science O is still seeking event coach volunteers! Here are the events still in need of a coach:

- Meteorology
- Food Science

You do not need prior Science Olympiad experience to volunteer. Coaching would consist of teaching a 45 minute class once per week to a small group of students either directly before or directly after school. If you are able to help out with either of these events, please complete the questionnaire linked in the Q.R. code or email Mrs. Blumberg at kablumberg@psdschools.org.



National Junior Honor Society: NJHS starts in mid-September for returning members; new members can apply in January. We will meet on Mondays at 7:30 a.m. in the Kinard Media Center. Meeting dates : 9/21, 10/5, 10/26, 11/9, 12/7, 1/11, 2/1, 3/8, 3/29, 4/12, 4/26. We may add more dates as needed to complete projects and community events. Please reach out to Nicole Darrow with questions: ndarrow@psdschools.org

Upcoming Athletic Opportunities

As we start to wrap up a fantastic fall athletics season, we want to recognize and congratulate our over 300 student athletes and their coaches who have been working hard and having fun! It is



time now to look forward to our winter

sports seasons. The winter season will begin with boys basketball starting near the end of October and will be followed by girls basketball and wrestling starting in January when we return from winter break.



Kinard Middle School

Upcoming Athletic Opportunities

continued

For all middle school sports, there are three things families must do to register their student for sports.

1. Student athletes must be registered by sport through [A Better Way Athletics](#). Even if your child participated in a fall sport, you must register them into the winter sport in which they plan to participate.
2. Students must have a current sports physical on file at Kinard.
3. Families must have paid the \$150 registration fee through [SchoolPay](#). This fee will be reimbursed for players who do not make the team when it is a cut sport.



Coaches will not be able to let student athletes participate in tryouts or practice without these three steps completed. For detailed information on how to complete each step, please review the information at the end of this email.

Sport Specific Information:

Boys Basketball - 7th and 8th grade boys

Team structure: Varsity, JV, C and D teams (limited roster/cut sport - up to 36 total players)

Preseason camp: Monday 10/19 - Friday 10/23, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

Tryouts: Monday 10/26 - Wednesday 10/28, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

Team practice: Starting Thursday, 10/29, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

Girls Basketball - 7th and 8th grade girls

Team structure: Varsity, JV, C and D teams (limited roster/cut sport - up to 36 total players)

Preseason camp: Tuesday, 1/5 - Friday 1/8, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

Tryouts: Monday 1/11 - Wednesday 1/13, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

Team practice: Starting Thursday, 1/14, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

Kinard Middle School

Upcoming Athletic Opportunities

continued

Prior to the start of camp, girls basketball will host open gyms for any interested players on the following Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 PM in the Kinard Gym: 11/8/26, 11/15/26, 12/6/26 and 12/13/26. These voluntary open gyms are non-evaluatory in nature and provide an opportunity for players to work on their skills with the coaches and other players.

Wrestling - 6th, 7th and 8th grade students

Team structure: Open to all students, non-cut sport

Preseason camp: Tuesday, 1/5 - Friday, 1/9

Team practice: Starting Monday, 1/11, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Auxiliary gym

Prior to the start of camp, wrestling will host open mats for anyone interested in working out, learning about, and practicing wrestling. These open mats will be Monday - Friday from 3:30 - 5:00 PM. These voluntary open mats provide an opportunity for wrestlers of any experience to engage in the sport prior to the start of the season

Additional Registration Information:

The process and platform for registering your student-athlete has changed for the 2026-27 school year. Please take a moment to read through all the following information regarding middle school athletics registration.

SPORTS REGISTRATION

As in past years, students must (1) register online, (2) pay the athletic fee, and (3) submit a valid physical.

1. Register through [A Better Way](#). This is new for 2026-27. We will no longer be utilizing SportsEngine.
 - a. Create an account, and register as a parent. Be aware the entire process will take approximately 30-40 minutes.
2. There is a link to [SchoolPay](#) within the registration system.
 - a. PSD Athletics Fee for each sport is \$150 and must be paid through SchoolPay.
3. Plan to have your child with you as each student-athlete needs to watch 4 short videos the first time they register. This will take approximately 15-20 minutes. (Note: If you are registering more than one athlete, each student will need to view the videos separately. If a student played a fall sport, they will not have to watch the videos again this season.)

continued on next page

Kinard Middle School

Upcoming Athletic Opportunities

continued

4. There is a place to upload your [PSD physical form](#) on A Better Way. Page 4 can be scanned and uploaded, or you may bring the completed form to the school office. The physical will be reviewed and approved by the athletic department prior to clearing the athlete for participation in practice.
 - a. Physicals are valid for one calendar year.
 - b. You must use the PSD form, linked above.
 - c. The Health and Wellness Centers at Centennial High School and Lincoln Middle School offer sports physicals/well child exams June - August. The Center can bill insurance and no child is ever turned away for inability to pay. For more information visit <https://hwcenters.org/> or call their office at 970-488-4900.
 - d. If you have questions about a physical that was submitted last year, please reach out to Holly Garcia, Athletic Secretary, at hgarcia@psdschools.org or 970-488-5414.

PSD Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering at Kinard or in PSD, please use this link to register: [Volunteer Application](#)

If you are already a registered volunteer, please follow the steps below to view volunteer opportunities:

1. Log in to your Volunteer Portal through this link: [Raptor Volunteer Portal](#)
2. When logged in, click on Events within the Navigation Menu.
3. Review the details of the Event you wish to sign up for and click "Sign-Up".

Thank you for contributing your time and talent to Kinard and PSD!

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner

Hello Poudre School District Families,

This month, the School Resource Officer team would like to speak to you about the safety of e-bike/e-motor transportation. There have been severe incidents involving students and children in our community riding e-motor modes of transportation. We believe parent awareness around the safety and laws regarding these modes of transportation is the first step in ensuring our children are safe.

Here is a graphic of what is and is not allowed when it comes to electronic modes of transportation:

WHAT DOES IT NEED?		VEHICLE LANE	BIKE LANE	SIDE WALK	WHAT IS IT?
PEDALS	BICYCLE	✓	✓	✓	HUMAN POWERED ONLY
	CLASS 1 E BIKE	✓	✓	✓	PEDAL ASSIST ONLY, MAX SPEED 20 MPH
	CLASS 2 E BIKE	✓	✓	✓	THROTTLE ASSISTED, MAX SPEED 20 MPH
	CLASS 3 E BIKE	✓	✓	YES, BUT ONLY WITHOUT USING THE MOTOR	PEDAL ASSIST ONLY MAX SPEED OF 28 MPH
< 18 HELMET	E SCOOTER	✓	✓	✓	STANDING ONLY
	HUMAN POWERED	✗	✗	✓	ROLLER SKATES
	TOY	✗	✗	✓	SKATEBOARD, TOY VEHICLE
	SINGLE WHEEL DEVICE	✗	✗	✗	ELECTRIC UNICYCLE, BALANCE BASED
	LOW POWERED SCOOTER	✓	✓	✗	VIN, NO MORE THAN 3 WHEELS, <4476 WATTS OR <50CC
< 18 HELMET FOOT PEGS EYE PROTECTION INSURANCE REGISTRATION LICENSE	ELECTRIC MOTOR CYCLE	✓	✗	✗	VIN, THROTTLE ONLY >4476 WATTS

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner

continued

We would like to note- any device classified as a low-powered scooter requires a driver's license and insurance, and any device classified as an electric motorcycle requires a motorcycle license and insurance. In addition, any device in the class 3 e-bike category requires the rider to be over 16 on a roadway.

There are many questions when it comes to these modes of transportation. The best advice we have is to research and ask questions BEFORE purchasing one for your child.

Thank you and stay safe,
SRO Kate Garcia

PSD Teacher Art Show

Our very own art teachers, Mrs. Houston and Mr. Vizzini, have pieces in this new art show, "Teachers as Artists, Artists as Teachers." We encourage you to check out the show during the month of October to see firsthand the many talents of PSD's fabulous visual arts teachers!

Hosted by Northern Colorado Artists Community
Building a Creative Arts Destination

1ST FRIDAY ART WALK
October 2, 4 - 6pm
Teachers as Artists, Artists as Teachers

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT



Join us to celebrate the creativity of Poudre School District's teachers. This exhibit features painting, charcoal, ceramics, photography, mixed media, and more.

Show runs October 1-31,

Kinard Middle School

Teen Self Care Fair

The Teen Self Care Fair is for youth to explore new ways to practice self-care, including yoga, medieval longsword, art, aerial silks, music, and much more. Also, enjoy therapy dogs, community resource booths, free food trucks, and giveaways!

The annual Teen Self-Care Fair will take place on October 18, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. The goal is to create a space for youth to learn new coping skills and join the conversation around suicide prevention through experiential learning.

This event is open to all youth (6th-12th grades) who want to explore new ways to practice self-care. Spanish interpretation services provided.

