

April
2024



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.



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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! Our Gold team placed 2nd, the Blue team earned 7th, and the Red team took 9th place overall. Both the Gold and Blue teams are headed to the state Sci O competition on April 6. Thank you to all the coaches and families who support these amazing students, especially Coach Murphy who stepped in to coordinate the whole program this year. Go Mustangs!



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Kinard Middle School

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Science Olympiad Teams Heading to State

continued



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...to learn more about these great companies!

Health District
OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY

CHECK IN to affordable health coverage options.

Visit HealthDistrict.org
or call Larimer Health Connect at 970-472-0444.

Kinard Middle School

Is it just a phase?



CAYAC

Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Connections

Helping youth and families find answers, options and support.

Health District

OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, AND YOUNG ADULT CONNECTIONS

970-221-3308

MathCounts State Competition

Seven MathCounts members qualified for the state competition in February. Over spring break, they voluntarily organized study sessions to prepare, and it paid off at the state competition! There were 142 students at the state competition, and three of our students ranked in the top 30. Neo Luo was originally ranked 10th but beat the 9th place student in a head-to-head competition earning him 9th place overall. Riley Wang placed 13th, and Erika Tang placed 28th. In addition, the team of Neo Luo, Riley Wang, Erika Tang, and Ellie Wang placed 5th overall in the competition and brought back a trophy for our school. Angela Wang, Joseph Lee, and Yihan Jing also did an amazing job representing Kinard and showing off their math skills! We look forward to an awesome year next year with all our 6th and 7th graders. Good luck to our 8th graders who will no doubt move on to do great things in math and anything else they choose!

Orchestra and Band Celebrations

It's been a busy month for both our band and orchestra programs with festivals galore! We want to congratulate our Symphony Orchestra and Mrs. Griffey on their SUPERIOR rating at the CASTA festival just before Spring Break! Their achievement also means that they are one of only two middle school orchestras in the entire state to be invited to the State Festival in April! At the same time, Mr. Perez and our Honors Band also earned SUPERIOR scores at the CBA Middle School Festival in early March!

continued on next page

Supporting our Schools



Joe Mivshek

Joe.Mivshek@KW.com

kw NORTHERN COLORADO
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970.420.7163



Kinard Middle School

Orchestra and Band Celebrations *continued*

Our band performed in front of a panel of judges and other middle school bands and performed beautifully. Then, it was off to the Winter Park Ski-Music Festival for some fun and more music-making for both groups. What a month it has been!



Reach Parents in Larimer County through our mobile-ready newsletters

Market your business in Poudre School District.

You gain visibility and targeted, increased awareness;
schools gain funds from advertising revenue.



Kinard Middle School

Kinard's Global Leadership Travels to Costa Rica!

In late March, Kinard's 8th grade Global Leadership class traveled to Costa Rica for a service learning and adventure trip. The group of 22 traveled to various locations throughout the country including San José, Sarapiquí, Arenal, and Guanacaste. During the journey, they took part in several different activities such as learning about the history of chocolate in the Tirimbina Reserve, white water rafting on the Sarapiquí river, snorkeling, hiking up the base of Mount Arenal, visiting some geothermal pools, and much more. Students had the chance to serve the community by planting trees to prevent erosion on trails and doing service at a local elementary school that suffered a recent flood. The students cleaned up trash, painted walls, made planters, and played hours of soccer with the local kids. This taught students the importance of giving when you can, and that "we" is more important than "me." The students also got to try many local foods and learned about the vibrant Costa Rican culture and the basics of Spanish. The students were a little hesitant at first, but once they got comfortable, they almost became fluent. All in all, the Global Leadership class learned important lessons about culture, sustainability, "we" first and, thanks to the trip, they became a true family.



Kinard Middle School

7th Grade Fly Fishing Unit

7th Grade PE students spent several class periods learning about the basics of fly fishing including how to put together a fly-fishing rod, tie knots, and cast, along with bug and fish identification. At the end of the unit, students got to walk to Lady Moon Pond and fly fish in a real pond for actual fish! Students did a great job with this unit. If you are interested in getting your student more involved with fly fishing outside of school, please contact your student's PE teacher.



2024 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.

2024 CMAS Assessments

continued

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
Wednesday, April 3	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #1	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #1	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #1
Thursday, April 4	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #2	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #2	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #2
Friday, April 5	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #3	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #3	8:15 – 10:35 ELA #3
Monday, April 8	8:15 – 9:50 Math #1	8:15 – 9:50 Math #1	8:15 – 9:50 Math #1 1:05 – 2:45 Science #1
Tuesday, April 9	8:15 – 9:50 Math #2	8:15 – 9:50 Math #2	8:15 – 9:50 Math #2 1:05 – 2:45 Science #2
Wednesday, April 10	8:15 – 9:50 Math #3	8:15 – 9:50 Math #3	8:15 – 9:50 Math #3 1:05 – 2:45 Science #3

For detailed daily student schedules, click [here](#) for ELA testing days and [here](#) for math and 8th grade science testing days. These schedules also include modified times for each class period. Students will also receive a printed copy of the CMAS assessment schedule during ELO on Monday, April 1st.

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.*

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Kinard Middle School

2024 CMAS Assessments

continued

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.

Opting out of tests:

To excuse your student from state assessments, you may complete a Parent Excusal form digitally by logging into [ParentVUE](#) and accessing Services Tracker. Instructions and screenshots on how to do this can be found [here](#). Please note that you will need to indicate you are opting your child out for each subject area. You may also print a [PDF version](#) of the form and return it to the Kinard main office. Spanish and Arabic versions can also be found [here](#).

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.

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 29th 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

Thank You from the Health Office

Thank you for your health office feminine hygiene donations! We have enough supplies to get us through the end of the school year and into the fall.



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!

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 Wednesday, May 1st. 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.

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner

Hello, everyone. I hope you were all able to get some much needed R&R over Spring Break. As the weather starts to turn nicer and we start to kick the winter dust off our bikes, the SRO unit would like to give a couple of reminders on bicycle safety.

First and foremost, wear a helmet! While a legal requirement for helmets does not exist in Colorado, according to the National Institutes of Health, the use of bicycle helmets was found to reduce head injury by 48%, serious head injury by 60%, traumatic brain injury by 53%, face injury by 23%, and the total number of killed or seriously injured cyclists by 34%.

Second, assume the driver of the approaching vehicle does not see you. The roads are, unfortunately, loaded with distracted drivers. Attempt to make eye contact whenever possible, especially at intersections. Colorado allows for “safety stops” at intersections, this allows bicyclists to ride slowly through stop signs without stopping as long as they yield the proper right-of-way.

Additionally, cyclists may proceed straight or turn right at red lights after coming to a complete stop if there is no oncoming traffic. However, youth ages 14 and under may NOT perform the safety stop unless accompanied by an adult. For more information, see Colorado revised statute § 42-4-1412.5.

Finally, always ride with the flow of traffic, never against it. Not only is it illegal, but it is also very dangerous as vehicular traffic does not anticipate bicyclists on the wrong side of the road.

Please remember, if you are riding on the roadway as a cyclist, you have the same rights and responsibilities as a motorist. If you are riding on sidewalks, you must follow the pedestrian rules while yielding to people on foot. We often see cyclists riding down the sidewalk and cross over intersections with no regard for vehicular traffic. This is, again, very dangerous and illegal. A pedestrian cannot “abruptly leave a position of safety.”

Drivers, please be vigilant about cyclists on the road. Please do not park in any bike lane. Generally speaking, your vehicle should not occupy a bike lane unless you are setting up to make a right turn, in which case, you should position your vehicle on the “rightmost portion of the roadway.” Doing so prevents a cyclist from attempting to overtake on the right as the vehicle turns right, creating what’s known as a “hook” situation.

Happy spring, everyone! Get out there and ride!

For more information on Colorado laws specific to cycling, check out: <https://colobikelaw.com/coloradolaw.html>

Kinard Middle School

Summer School Option for 8th graders

Registration for Session 1 of Poudre School District's summer school program is now open, and Session 2 will open in May. Classes are free for current 8th - 12th grade PSD students. 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, April 1 - 8:00 am - Thursday, May 23 – 3:00 pm
- Thursday, June 3 - 8:00 am - Friday, June 28 - 3:00 pm

Students should notify their home school and use home school laptops for summer school. Students who plan to take Physical Education should register for this class first (students who complete all of the online work with a passing grade and are working on their 40 hours of physical fitness logs will be allowed to start a second class early).

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

Incoming Fossil Freshman

Do you have an 8th grader planning to attend Fossil Ridge High School next year? If so, please read on to complete a brief survey to help them plan their Back to School Night.

FRHS is planning to offer brief (15-20 minute) informational sessions as an option for families during their Back to School Night on Wednesday, August 21st. In an effort to provide the most meaningful experience possible, They are asking for stakeholder feedback. Please help Fossil out by taking a moment to complete a short survey by May 1st, 2024 at the following link: [2024 BTSN Survey](#). Thank you!

Kinard Middle School

PSD's Mental Health Matters Event

Here at Poudre School District, we understand the importance of supporting our students' mental and emotional health, as well as their physical health. That's why we are excited to announce our 9th annual Mental Health Matters event. This event provides our community with invaluable information on a variety of mental health topics. Come check out lectures from knowledgeable community members and take home valuable tips and tricks to benefit your whole family!

Please join us on April 16 at Fossil Ridge High School, 5400 Ziegler Road in Fort Collins

- Doors open at 5:15 p.m. for a Resource Fair showing off all of the amazing community support we have in the Fort Collins area.
- We are thrilled to announce that Michael Kutcher is this year's keynote speaker from 6-7:30 p.m., talking about overcoming the odds and "Diffability."
- From 7:45-8:30 p.m. there will be five breakout sessions running concurrently on a variety of Mental Health topics, such as cyber safety education, resiliency, substance use trends and harm reduction, the circadian clock and how sleep affects our life, and more!

About Michael Kutcher: www.michaelkutcher.com/

Mental Health Matters Website: <https://tinyurl.com/PSD-MentalHealthMatters>

We look forward to seeing some of you there!

Kinard Middle School

PSD's Mental Health Matters Event *continued*

6:00P-7:30P



Keynote Speaker
Michael Kutcher

Michael shares his extraordinary journey of triumph over seemingly insurmountable challenges. He offers a powerful message of perseverance, resilience, and self-empowerment through personal anecdotes and hard-won insights. Michael discusses embracing a mindset of strength and possibility.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Hosted at
Fossil Ridge High School
April 16, 2024

5:15P-7:45P

Resource Fair: Community agencies providing Mental Health and Wellness support



7:45P-8:30P

Break Out Sessions with K-12 mental health topics including resiliency, mindful communication, emotional regulation, social media awareness, etc.



For more information go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/PSD-MentalHealthMatters>



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTHERN COLORADO



Free STEM Camp

PSD, in partnership with CSU, is offering a free, week-long STEM camp for middle school students in computer programming this summer. No prior experience is necessary. See the flier or visit the [website](#) for more info.

SWiFT | 2024
http://swift.cs.colostate.edu

code.earth
Exploring Computer Science and Planet Earth

WHO?
Students who are currently in 7th and 8th grade
Students who are interested in exploring Computer Science and STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) majors
No programming experience required

WHEN + WHERE?
June 5 – June 9, 2023
Sessions: 9AM-3PM
Help Sessions: 8-9AM and 3-4PM (Optional)
Where: Lab 315 in the Computer Science Building at Colorado State University
Cost: No registration fee or tuition
Lunch will be provided

WHAT + HOW?
Since 2016, the SWiFT STEM camp has been organized by the Computer Science Department @CSU. SWiFT provides an active learning environment using the Python programming language to introduce Computer Science topics to students in Fort Collins and Northern Colorado. This summer, students will learn about the basics of computer programming and meet computer scientists and earth scientists.

Application
Contact Maya Wylie (mayaw@psdschools.org)
or visit web site: <http://swift.cs.colostate.edu>

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
©The SWiFT Program
National Science Foundation
Department of Computer Science, Colorado State University

Local Camps

See the fliers below for upcoming opportunities for students to participate in various camps for different interests and sports.

GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP

**SATURDAY
JUNE 8TH**

8:30am - 11:30am 1st-4th Grade
12:30pm - 3:30pm 5th-8th Grade

\$40 T-Shirt Included
@FCHS Gymnasium

Join the Fort Collins High School Girls Basketball Coaches & Players for 3 hours of Instruction, Competition, Scrimmaging, Prizes and Fun!



**REGISTER
HERE**



Local Camps

continued

Summer Dance Camp!
June 24-26, 2024

PRE K - 8TH GRADE

JR DANCE CAMP

Fossil Ridge Dance Team



K-8 Monday-Wednesday*, June 24-26 9:00-2:00pm
*9:00-12:30 on Wednesday with a final performance

Pre-K Wednesday, June 26 9:00-12:30pm
Camp at Fossil Ridge High School

\$200 PER DANCER
\$20 OFF PER SIBLING
\$65 PRE-K DANCER

Registration and details: Frhsdance.com

Collins Volleyball

For any girls that may be interested in playing volleyball in the fall at FCHS, see the flier below. The meeting will be April 4th at 4:15 in PE-1 at FCHS and we will go over summer opportunities, tryouts etc. Anyone who can't make it or has questions is welcome to email at lindseyb@psdschools.org.

PRESEASON VOLLEYBALL INFO MEETING



April 4th @ 4:15 in PE-1

**Any athletes interested in playing
volleyball in the fall are encouraged to
attend! Come find out about open gyms
and summer schedules etc. Email Lindsey**

with questions!

lindseyb@psdschools.org

FRHS Cheer Tryouts

Attention 8th graders headed to Fossil Ridge High School next year! See the information below if you're interested in trying out for the FRHS cheer team. Visit frhscheer.com for more details.

REGISTER FOR 2024-2025 CHEER TRYOUTS NOW!

COME JOIN OUR FAMILY!



FOSSIL RIDGE CHEER TRYOUTS



NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH - TUMBLE CLINIC

4:15PM – 5:45PM FRHS GYM

****MUST REGISTER FOR THIS CLINIC SEPARATELY****

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD - TRYOUT CLINIC

4:15PM – 6:15PM FRHS GYM

THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH - TRYOUTS DAY 1

4:15PM – 6:15PM FRHS GYM

FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH - TRYOUTS DAY 2

4:15PM – 6:15PM FRHS GYM

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH - TRYOUTS DAY 3

9:00AM – 2:00PM FRHS GYM

**MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION
AT [FRHSHEER.COM](https://frhscheer.com)**

CSU's Introduce a Girl to Engineering

See the flier and website linked below for an awesome opportunity for girls interested in STEM and Science fields.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Day long event that introduces middle school girls to the world of engineering

April 13th 2024

Colorado State University
Scott Bioengineering Building

Register Here:
Follow us at @csuiage
on Instagram for updates