

November
2025



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

Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

Congratulations to all of our fall sports teams on a successful season! Our 300+ student athletes participating in fall sports showed tremendous dedication and work ethic, along with excellent sportsmanship throughout the season. We have had a variety of high character moments from all of our teams this year. Here are a few highlights:

- Our **cross country** team continues to define themselves by their high level of character in the Fort Collins community, and we continue to set records with the number of students who participate in cross country- 170 strong this year. Our boys team finished second and the girls finished third overall in the PSD championship meet. And then, in a true race to the finish, our girls varsity team won the Colorado Middle School State Cross Country Championship by one point, knocking out the highly competitive Webber girls team! Our boys varsity team also had a very strong showing at the state competition, finishing third overall.
- Our **football** team worked hard, showed great growth, and really hit their stride later in the season by winning some key victories. They finished the season on a high note with back-to-back playoff wins and a shut out win over Wellington to clinch the silver bracket championship.
- Both our girls and boys **tennis teams** won first place in the district championship! These athletes have maintained a program of excellence for over a decade, bringing home numerous championship titles, the most in Kinard's history.
- Our **volleyball** team finished their season as district champions as well! This great group of girls was fun to watch and consistently exemplified true teamwork and Kinard character on and off the court.

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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

CLICK IT

Click on the
Ads in this
Newsletter

...to learn more about
these great companies!

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Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

continued

Up next in athletics is boys basketball! For up-to-date athletics information and results, visit our [Athletics Webpage](#).



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BEST BIRTHDAY EVER

Voted Best Birthdays in Northern Colorado 9 years in a row!

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Kinard Middle School

Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

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CHECK IN

Medicaid Renewal Requires Your Action. We Can Help!

HealthDistrict.org



Health District
OF NORTHERN LASIMES COUNTY
970-472-0444

Se Habla Español

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.

Kinard Middle School

Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

continued



**Your Family's
Future Starts Here**

WORK WITH SARAH TYLER

your local realtor



Kinard Middle School

CANS Around the Oval

Congratulations and special thanks to Kinard Global Leadership for facilitating the Cans Around the Oval food drive at Kinard last month. The fundraiser was a huge success as we collected over 2,500 pounds of food and almost \$5,500 for donation to the Larimer County Food Bank. The top 3 winning 1st period classes in the school were Mr. Graham in 6th, Mr. Benson in 7th, and Mrs. Rakiecki in 8th. Regardless of who came in first and how much they donated, we all came together as a school to make a difference within our community. We are all so grateful for the amazing efforts of our Mustangs to help those in need in our community.

The SLiCE organization at Colorado State University facilitates the CANS Around the Oval event which results in hundreds of thousands of pounds of food collected every year. Thank you, Kinard families- we couldn't have done it without you!



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Sponsor This School!

YOUR NAME HERE

Click [HERE](#)
Contact Us
Today!

Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107

Rob@tscacolorado.com

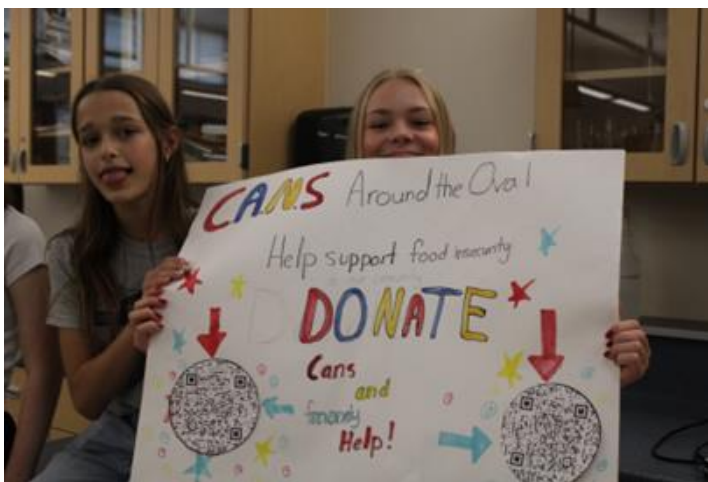
The School Communications Agency
Supporting Schools & Local Businesses



Kinard Middle School

CANS Around the Oval

continued



Talent Show

Kinard's got lots and lots and lots of talent! We had so much fun, were so entertained, and are so in awe of the courageous students who shared their exceptional gifts and skills with us at our Talent Show in October. A huge thank you to Mr. Graham for coordinating the entire extravaganza, all the students who performed or supported the show as the backstage crew, and to all staff who took a risk to be a part of the show, without really even knowing what they signed up for!



Music Department Celebrations

It has been a busy last month in the world of music at Kinard! From concerts to 5ks, our music teachers and students are demonstrating how hard work, consistent practice, and a dedication to learning combine to make amazing results.

Mustang Music 5K and Fun Run

To start off October, we had an amazing time at the fifth annual Mustang Music 5K and Fun Run! Our fabulous music teachers, awesome students, and our generous parent volunteers organized such an incredible community event! We are already looking forward to this event again next year.



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Music Department Celebrations

continued

Fall Music Concerts

October also brought our first concerts of the year! The Philharmonia and the Symphony Orchestras, directed by Mrs. Griffey, partnered with the Mustang Chorale, directed by Mr. Wheeler, for a joint concert that showcased the many talents of our vocal and instrumental music programs. Then, the Intermediate, Honors, and Symphonic Bands played their first concert of the school year in front of a packed audience. Great job, Mustang Musicians!



Nordic Invitational

Both our Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra performed beautifully at their first festival adjudication, The Nordic Invitational at Leshar Middle School, in late October. They received the highest marks from the adjudicators and clinicians who reviewed them and shared feedback for improvement in a working clinic. Way to go, Mrs. Griffey, Mr. Perez, and all of the Mustang musicians who participated!



Give Next Kickoff Day

Kinard was one of 33 schools (over 700 students!) that attended the 2025 Give Next Kickoff Day on October 28th. At Colorado State University, students connected with over 50 local nonprofit leaders to learn about important issues and opportunities facing communities in Larimer County. During the NextGen Panel, students had Q&A time with youth leaders serving in local nonprofits, and they gained important takeaways on how to start making a difference now in our community. Join us in thanking Mrs. Flemming and Mrs. Houston for providing our students with this amazing learning opportunity!

Give Next is a school-based grantmaking program for middle and high school students in Larimer County. Through the Give Next program, local businesses, foundations, and individuals become classroom donors by providing each participating school with \$5,000 to award to nonprofits in Larimer County. With the financial support of these generous donors, students design and manage their own grantmaking programs. Give Next is made possible through the support of many community partners; primary program implementation partners are Bohemian Foundation and the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado.



Kinard Middle School

Student Essay Contest Winner!

Congratulations to Melia Austin who is one of the winners of this year's Fort Collins Reads essay contest! Her essay was on the topic of banned books. She was recognized at a ceremony on October 29th where she shared her essay. Way to go, Melia! We're proud of you!



Important Student Laptop Reminders

We have a very limited number of spare laptops to distribute to students, and we must prioritize using the spares for students whose computers are broken or in for repair. Therefore, please help your child to bring their laptop to school each morning. Here are some helpful reminders for students:

- **Every Night:** plug in your laptop to charge overnight
- **Every Day:** bring your fully charged laptop to school each day
- **Laptop Care:** handle the laptop carefully and store it in a safe location

Turkey Round Up

We're excited to invite you to join us once again for the Tour de Turkey, a heartwarming fundraiser to help ensure that everyone can enjoy a yummy Thanksgiving dinner! Mark your calendars for **November 20th from 7:30 to 8:00 AM**—our NJHS students will help by collecting your donations straight from the drop-off line in the oval of the main parking lot. Bring in frozen turkeys, hams, or chickens to donate—to help fill a plate and bring smiles! We'll be donating all the food to the Larimer County Food Bank. Please note: We are unable to accept monetary donations in person; however you can donate using the QR code below and mentioning "Kinard Middle School Turkey Round Up" in the "Name of company, food drive, or campaign" section. Let's come together to make this holiday special for everyone! If you have questions, please contact Nicole Darrow at ndarrow@psdschools.org. Hope to see you there!

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Kinard Middle School

Turkey Round Up

continued

TOUR de TURKEY

FOOD BANK

SHARE THE WARMTH OF A HOLIDAY MEAL by donating a FROZEN TURKEY



**Thursday
November 20**



Donate frozen turkeys!
Ham & chicken donations accepted, too



Calling all PSD Schools!

The Turkey Round up is one of our favorite community events & is needed this year more than ever!

Reach out to your counselor if you are in need of assistance.

Drop off in the front of Kinard (drop off in the oval) from 7:30 to 8:00 am on November 20th. Collection sponsored by Kinard NJHS students. Help us donate to those in need!



Presented by:



tourdeturkey.org

Kinard Middle School

School Accountability Committee Meeting

A reminder that we have rescheduled our second quarter School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting to **Monday, December 8, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Kinard Media Center**. We are hoping this day and time may allow more parents/guardians to attend. Your Kinard student is welcome to stay at Kinard and complete homework or watch the boys basketball game in the gym on December 8th while we meet.

As a reminder, 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. We welcome any parent to attend our next meeting, even if you were unable to join our first quarter meeting.

8th Grade Transition to High School

Positive transitions are a large part of a successful middle school experience. Thus, Poudre School District intentionally creates opportunities to assist students as they move from one level to the next. Please review the information below regarding the transition events for our high schools in PSD.

- All students have an assigned home high school based on their home address.
- If you are planning to have your child attend a high school other than their designated feeder school, the PSD School Choice application must be completed by December 15, 2025. Please visit the [PSD School Options and Choice](#) website for more details.
- The comprehensive high schools in PSD are offering evening informational nights for incoming freshman and prospective students. See below for a list of dates or visit each school's website for more details. We will also update 8th grade families as we learn of other registration events from the various PSD high schools.
- In late January, high school counselors will visit Kinard to help students with the registration process for 9th grade courses.

If you have any questions about high school transitions, please contact Patti Young, Counselor (student last names A-G), at pyoung@psdschools.org or (970)488-5406 or Karen Irvine, Counselor (student last names H-Z), at kirvine@psdschools.org or (970)488-5408.

8th Grade Transition to High School***continued***

Fort Collins High School	8th Grade Open House - Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 6:00-7:30 pm Registration Q & A - Thursday, January 29, 2026, 6:00-7:00 pm FCHS Registration Website
Fossil Ridge High School	Fossil Ridge Open House - Thursday, December 4, 2025 6-8pm 9th Grade Registration Q & A Night - Wednesday, January 28, 2026 6-7 p.m. FRHS Class of 2030 website
Poudre Global Academy	PGA K-12 School Information Sessions 11/12 and 1/22 from 5-6PM and Tours Every Tuesday 9:15-9:45 at PGA Sign up here
Poudre High School	Poudre Preview Night 12/2/25 5:30-7:30pm IB Information Nights - November 3rd-5:30-6:30PM @Leshar - November 5th-5:30-6:30PM @Lincoln - November 11th-5:30-6:30PM @ CLP - December 9th-6:30-7:30PM @ PSD Future Ready Event Space
Rocky Mountain High School	8th Grade Open House - November 17 6:00-8:00 pm 8th Grade Registration Q&A Night - Monday, January 26 6:00-7:00

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8th Grade Transition to High School***continued***

Timnath Middle-High School	Timnath High School Incoming 9th Grade Night & Curriculum Fair - December 3 - 6:30-8:00PM Evening Tours - November 20: 4:30-6:00 Morning Tours - November 14: 9:30-11:00 - December 12: 9:30-11:00
Centennial High School	Orientation Sessions - Dec 4th 8:30am & 5:30pm - Jan 29th 8:30am & 5:30pm - March 26th 8:30am & 5:30pm - May 7th 5:30pm
Polaris	Middle & High School Open House November 4th 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Poudre Community Academy	Quarterly Orientations: 12/1, 3/2, 5/11 all at 3:45
Wellington Middle-High School	Open House 12/2/25, 5pm-7pm

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

Counselors' Corner

As we continue to teach SEL (Social-Emotional Lessons) in each grade this year, we will be integrating Career and College Readiness skills into the lessons. This includes helping students develop their Individual Career and Academic Plan, also known as 'ICAP'. In high school, students will solidify their ICAP so they have an active and effective post-secondary plan. Below are the topics we are covering at each grade level in our first semester lessons:

- **6th Grade:** Conflict Resolution Skills, Intro to ICAP & Learning Styles Inventory
- **7th Grade:** Self-Awareness & ICAP; Interests Survey & Career Matches
 - ◊ Healthy Relationships Online (lesson happens in Tech Class)
- **8th Grade:** Individual Skills & ICAP; Transition to High School

As students create their ICAP with us, all of their career & college readiness work and explorations will be recorded in their individual account in Xello, the career and college planning software program used in PSD. **Ask your child to show you his/her ICAP in Xello** and find out which careers he/she has identified as interesting. You can also explore Xello yourself and get a

Kinard Middle School

Counselors' Corner

continued

glimpse into your child's account by using your personalized parent Xello sign-in code; access to your code was sent to you via an email on Oct. 27, 2025.

We are always available through a call or email, so don't hesitate to contact us:

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

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

KINARD COUNSELING LEARNING PAGE:

<https://sites.google.com/psdschools.org/kin-learning-counseling/home>

National Junior Honor Society

For current members, NJHS meets in the Media Center from 7:20-8:00 a.m. on select Monday mornings- see specific dates below. ***If you are interested in joining NJHS, we will be hosting an induction for new members in January.*** Please look for updates in upcoming newsletters for more info on the induction process. We will be using our NJHS Google Classroom for student updates as well as push messages through Synergy for communication with families. Please reach out to Nicole Darrow at ndarrow@psdschools.org if you are not receiving either update.

NJHS meeting dates:

- November 17th
- December 8th
- January 12th
- February 2nd & 23rd
- March 9th & 30th
- April 13th
- May 4th

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner

Keeping students and staff safe is always our top priority. Just as students learn academics step by step, we also take time to practice safety drills. We want everyone to know what to do and be able to respond calmly if the need arises. We understand that hearing about these drills can sometimes feel unsettling, but they are an important way we help students and staff be prepared and confident in any situation.

In Poudre School District, every school holds a monthly evacuation drill (what most of us grew up calling a 'fire drill'). Each school also participates in three lockdown drills throughout the year, with some schools choosing to practice more often. These drills are short, calm, and age-appropriate so students know what to do without creating unnecessary fear.

All of our schools follow the [Standard Response Protocol \(SRP\)](#), developed by the ["I Love U Guys" Foundation](#). This system uses common language, such as [Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, Shelter](#) – so staff and students know exactly what to do in different situations. Staff members in Poudre School District have had additional training in the SRP, and they practice regularly to ensure your child's safety is always a top priority.

These drills are about preparation, not fear. We want to help our students feel prepared and confident. It is like buckling our seatbelt... we hope we never need it, but it is there to keep us safe if we do.

Safety is a team effort! At home, you can help by listening to your child's questions after a drill and letting them share what they practiced. This helps students feel prepared and in control. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about our school's safety. We are here to help.

Are you looking for a safe place for your middle or high school student after school?

TAC212 is an inclusive and fun supervised space that is drug, weapon, and alcohol-free. Teens have access to art supplies, computers, gaming consoles, movie streaming, puzzles, games, books, snacks, friends and more!

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner

continued

Hours of Operation:

- Tuesday-Thursday 4pm-8pm
- Saturday 12:30pm-6:30pm
- 212 West Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521
- Questions? Contact our Program Coordinator - Jaylen Jackson
 - ◇ 970-698-7269
 - ◇ jaylenj@tcffo.org.

**BY TEENS, FOR TEENS.
THRIVE. ACHIEVE. CONNECT.**

Thank you and stay safe,
Kate Garcia
Kinard SRO



Information Galore!

Our website is full of helpful information. Here are a few specific links for quick reference and to help you know what is happening at school.

<u>Homepage</u>	<u>Clubs</u>	<u>Activity Calendar</u>
<u>Daily Announcements</u>	<u>Athletics</u>	<u>Teachers' Learning Pages</u>

Lost and Found

Has your student misplaced a water bottle, lunch box, 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.

Kinard Middle School

Health Office News

As the weather gets colder and more germs start to circulate, please refer to the “How Sick Is Too Sick” guidelines that Poudre School District currently follows and visit the [PSD Health Services](#) website for more information if your student feels ill in the morning or goes home sick from school.

- [“How Sick is Too Sick” Guidelines](#)
- [¿Cuál es el punto en que uno está demasiado enfermo?](#)

If your student is experiencing fever, diarrhea, and/or vomiting, they must be **24-hours symptom free without medication from their last episode** to return to school.

If symptoms are explained by a specific illness please see criteria for exclusion from school in the CDPHE [Infectious Disease Guidelines in Childcare and School Settings](#).

If you have any questions regarding immunizations, medication, or health needs for Kinard during the school year, please contact:

-Abbie Tusing, Kinard Health Tech, atusing@psdschools.org, at Kinard daily

-Jena Gilbert, PSD School Nurse, jgilbert@psdschools.org, typically at Kinard on Fridays

Kinard health office: 970-488-5441

Kinard health office fax: 970-488-5433

Kinard Middle School

PSD Community Engagement Night



Curriculum & Instruction

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Engagement Invitation

You're Invited: Community Engagement Night for Curricular Materials

Dear Families, Educators, and Community Members,

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming **Community Engagement Night** focused on reviewing and discussing curricular materials for Poudre School District. This is a valuable opportunity for you to learn more about the instructional resources being considered for our classrooms—and to share your thoughts, questions, and ideas. This year, we are completing the adoption process for:

- K-5 Math
- English Language Development
- World Language Level 1 (French, German, Spanish)



Date: November 10, 2025



Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm



Location: Future Ready Event Center, 215 E Foothills Pkwy suite 510, Fort Collins, CO 80525

What to Expect:

- Opportunities to explore sample materials firsthand
- Open dialogue with district staff, curriculum specialists, and fellow community members
- A feedback form to ensure your voice helps shape our students' learning experience

Your input is essential as we work together to ensure our curriculum reflects the needs, values, and aspirations of our diverse community. Whether you're a parent, teacher, student, or neighbor, we welcome your participation.

We look forward to seeing you there and building a stronger educational future—together.

FRHS Gratitude Basketball Camp

Is your student interested in basketball? Check out the details in the flyer below for an opportunity over fall break.



**FOSSIL RIDGE
GRATITUDE
BASKETBALL CAMP**

2025

**FOSSIL RIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL**

Join Coach Heather Haanen and our SaberCat basketball family for another week of Thanksgiving basketball fun! This two-day skills camp is designed to teach and enhance the fundamentals of basketball through games, competition, and drills. Our camp staff will create an engaging environment for basketball and personal development.

**NOVEMBER 24-25
9:30AM - 12:00 PM**

**BOYS & GIRLS
4TH-8TH GRADE
COST: \$100**

GRATITUDE | GRATITUDE | GRATITUDE | GRATITUDE | GRATITUDE | GRATITUDE