

**January
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.



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Kinard Middle School



Mustang News

Thank You, Parents!

Thank you so much for the incredible support that our parents show for our school community on a daily basis. Whether it is supporting your children with their schoolwork, navigating the traffic oval twice a day for pick-up and drop-off, or contributing time and energy to help with our events and programs, we are so privileged to work alongside you!

Words cannot express our sincere gratitude for all the appreciation you show us as well! We would like to take a moment to specifically thank all the parents that contributed to our winter staff celebration at the end of December. Our staff genuinely felt your love and appreciation in every detail. The food was absolutely delicious, and the cookie boxes and gift cards were the icing on the cake to ring in the holiday season.

We want to thank you so very much for the incredible amount of time, effort, and resources you put into making our school such a unique and special place!



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

Lego Robotics State Competition

Two amazing Kinard Robotics teams competed in the Colorado Championship Competition in early December. Supported by their wonderful coaches, Mr. Berthold and Mrs. Grigg, both teams displayed phenomenal character and critical thinking and had overall strong performances. They especially shined in the core values and innovation categories, due in part to their authentic research, use of credible resources, and meaningful collaboration with their CU Boulder career experts. Way to go, Mustangs!



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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

Winter Music Concerts

We ended the semester with an impressive series of music concerts and events from our choir, band, and orchestra students! What a fabulous way to celebrate the dedication and hard work from our students who are committed to the performing arts at Kinard.



Choir- Directed by Mr. Scott Wheeler

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S&A
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Kinard Middle School

Winter Music Concerts

continued



Orchestra- Directed by Mrs. Leanne Griffey



Band- Directed by Mr. Mike Perez

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Today!

Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107

Rob@tscacolorado.com

The School Communications Agency
Supporting Schools & Local Businesses

 The School
Communications
Agency

Kinard Middle School

Madrigal Dinner

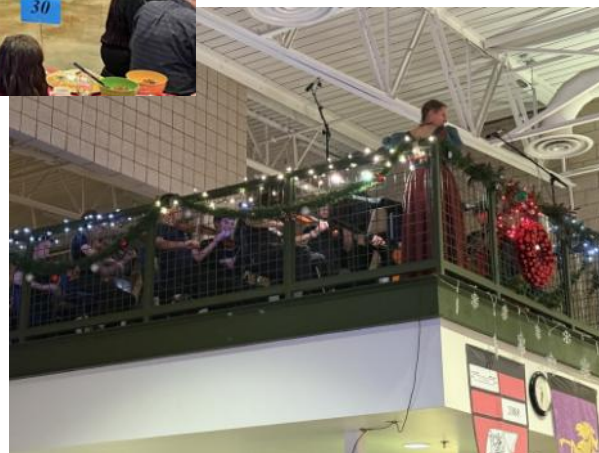
This December, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Kinard's Madrigal Dinner. And with two full-length shows again this year, it was bigger and better than ever. What an amazing display of our fine arts and music programs! The music, acting, food and drink were nothing short of spectacular. The Madrigal Dinner is a "Renaissance Fair-type" production set in 16th century England where the patrons enjoy a 4-course meal, and the actors/musicians perform all around the dinner setting. It is a collaborative production, put on by the drama and music programs at Kinard and directed by Mr. Wheeler. Thank you to the teachers, custodians, kitchen staff, all the drama students, musical performers, parent volunteers, and everyone involved for all your hard work and fabulous performances!



Kinard Middle School

Madrigal Dinner

continued



Kinard Middle School

PSD Art Show

A friendly reminder: The Creative Endeavors Art Show, showcasing selected student artwork from all of PSD's schools, will be on display at The Foothills Mall through January 26th. This show recognizes students' achievements in the visual arts and features a diverse mix of art mediums from painting and sculpture to collage and digital arts. Thanks to Mrs. Houston and Mr. Vizzini for all the hard work and support of our students to create such beautiful pieces. Stop by soon to check out the amazing artwork from our Mustang artists!

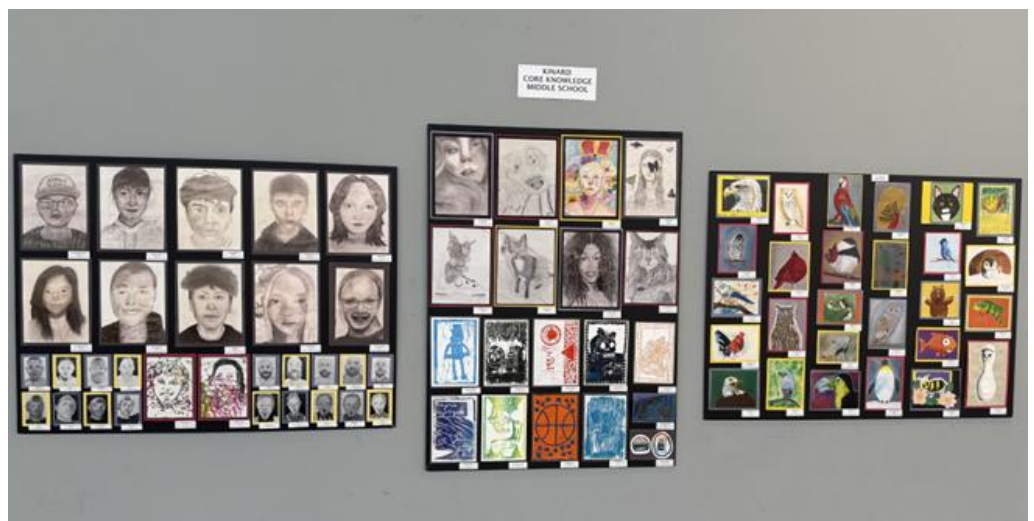
CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

2025

Poudre School District Visual Art Exhibition
Foothills Mall



Artwork on Display Dec 4-Jan 26



2026 CMAS Assessment Window

Please mark your calendars! The 2026 CMAS Assessment window is April 6th - 23rd. All students will take 3 English Language Arts assessments and 3 Mathematics assessments. Additionally, 8th graders will take 3 Science assessments. Please see the calendar below for a tentative schedule for when each of these assessments will occur. As you plan ahead, we would greatly appreciate you doing your best to avoid appointments or other student absences on these days.

The state assessment system, Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), 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, reflective of both workforce readiness and 21st century skills. Student progress toward these outcomes is measured through CMAS, which provides information to teachers as they incorporate the content standards in their daily instruction. CMAS results are also used for school and district accountability.

We will send a more detailed and specific calendar of testing days as we get nearer to the assessment window. If you have questions about the CMAS assessments, please contact Cecilia Bonertz, School Assessment Coordinator, at cbonertz@psdschools.org or (970) 488-5407.

Kinard CMAS Calendar**APRIL 2026**

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|----------------|---|------------------------|------------------|
| | | 1 Even | 2 Odd | 3 Even |
| 6 Odd | 7 Even | 8 Odd | 9 Even | 10 Odd |
| Science (2 tests, 8th grade only) | | Math (1 test, 8th grade only) | | |
| 13 Even | 14 Odd | 15 Even | 16 Odd | 17 Even |
| ELA | | | Make-Up Testing | |
| 20 Odd | 21 Even | 22 Odd | 23 Even | 24 |
| Make-Up Testing | | | | No School |

Kinard Middle School

Registration for 2026-27 School Year

Current 6th and 7th graders will be receiving their course selection materials for next year's classes between January 16-27. Parents will also be sent an email with the same course selection resources by the end of that timeframe. **Course selection forms are due February 5, 2026, to the Student Services Office.**

Current 8th graders will be listening to presentations from our PSD comprehensive high schools on **January 22**. If your 8th grader is not going to one of PSD's comprehensive high schools, you may want to contact their high school for registration information. High school registration forms are to be **completed by February 5 when high school counselors will be here at Kinard to talk with students individually and collect those completed and signed forms.** 8th grade families received an informational email on November 14 that had additional information regarding transition to high school.

When the course selection materials come home for all grade levels, please encourage your student to read the course descriptions thoroughly. Registering for classes is a commitment and influences the development of the master schedule both here and at the high school. Making changes in the fall can be problematic.

Please feel free to contact Patti Young (students with last names A-G) at 970-488-5406 or pyoung@psdschools.org or Karen Irvine (students with last name H-Z) at 970-488-5408 or kirvine@psdschools.org with any questions.

Kinard Middle School

Vision & Hearing Screening

Our annual Vision and Hearing Screening will be on **Friday, February 6, 2026**. And we could use your help that morning!



All 7th graders will be screened during 1st period, and we need about 16 volunteers that morning from 7:45 – 10:45 a.m. to ensure a smooth and efficient screening.

No prior experience is necessary- a quick training will be provided that morning. If interested, please follow the below instructions:

1. Login to your Volunteer Portal through this link: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Volunteer/Login/NjA0MzpWb2x1bnRlZXI6ZW4tVVM=>
2. When logged in, click on Events within the Navigation Menu (Kinard is on Friday, Feb. 6th)
3. Review the details of the Event you wish to sign up for and click "SignUp". If you have never volunteered in PSD, please visit <https://www.psdschools.org/community/volunteers> to register.

Please email Abbie Tusing, Health Tech, at atusing@psdschools.org or Jena Gilbert, School Nurse, at jgilbert@psdschools.org if you have any questions about the screening and volunteers@psdschools.org if you have any questions on signing up.

SRO Corner:

Rude vs. Mean vs. Bullying – What's the Difference?

As part of our commitment to creating a safe and respectful learning environment, we want to help families and students understand the difference between being **rude**, being **mean**, and **bullying**. These words are sometimes used interchangeably, but they mean very different things—especially when it comes to how schools address them.

Rude

Rude behavior is when someone says or does something hurtful—often without thinking—because they're being inconsiderate, careless, or self-centered in the moment. It's usually not meant to hurt deeply or target a specific person repeatedly.

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner:

continued

Examples:

- Interrupting someone while they are speaking.
- Making a joke that offends someone without realizing it.
- Cutting in line without saying “excuse me.”

What helps?

Gentle correction, modeling kindness, and practicing empathy usually turn these situations into learning moments.

Mean

Being mean is when someone says or does something with the intention to hurt another person’s feelings, embarrass them, or put them down. It’s often a reaction to anger, jealousy, or frustration—but still a choice.

Examples:

- Calling someone an unkind name.
- Making fun of someone’s appearance on purpose.
- Deliberately excluding a friend from a game.

What helps?

Mean behavior should be addressed directly. Apologies, repairing relationships, and teaching conflict resolution are key.

Bullying

Bullying is *repeated, intentional* harm—physical, verbal, or social—where there is a power imbalance. It’s not a one-time argument or an occasional unkind comment; it’s a pattern that can make someone feel unsafe at school.

Examples:

- Repeatedly spreading rumors to damage someone’s reputation.
- Consistently pushing, shoving, or intimidating someone.
- Targeting a younger or less confident student with ongoing insults.

What helps?

Bullying requires immediate adult intervention, clear consequences, and ongoing support for both the target and the student engaging in bullying behavior.

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner:

continued

Why this matters?

When students and families understand the difference between these behaviors, we can respond appropriately and teach skills that prevent problems from escalating. One of our goals is to help students grow into respectful, compassionate, and responsible members of our school community.

If you or your child witness behavior that feels like bullying, please report it to your school counselors or administrators right away. Together, we can ensure our school stays a safe place for everyone to learn and thrive .

Seal of Biliteracy

Did you know that PSD offers a Seal of Biliteracy for students studying World Languages?

Poudre School District honors students who speak more than one language by awarding them a Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diplomas. The PSD Seal of Biliteracy is a prestigious credential for graduating high school seniors who can read, speak, listen, and write at a high level in another language, as well as in English. The endorsement honors students who have studied another language, as well as those who have grown up speaking a language other than English.

Qualified seniors will also be recognized with an honor cord to wear at their graduation ceremony. The PSD Seal of Biliteracy endorsement will be documented on their official PSD transcript.

Kinard students who begin studying a World Language in either 6th or 7th grade may earn this award by their senior year in high school if they continue their World Language studies in high school. Students who speak a second language at home can also qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy. For more details about qualifying for this award go to <https://sites.google.com/psdschools.org/psdsealofbiliteracy/home>.

Kinard Give Next*: Strengthening the mental health and wellbeing of youth & families in Larimer County

On October 28, Kinard's Give Next club went on a field trip to CSU for "Kickoff Day" and learned about community issues within Northern Colorado and the nonprofits that support these issues within Larimer County.

After "Kickoff Day", the students discussed these issues. They created a mission statement to focus their work for this year: *We, the Give Next group at Kinard Middle School, want to strengthen the mental health and well-being of youth & families in Larimer County.*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Can you join us to help make a difference?

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to donate to our club fundraiser at the Give Next page of the NoCoFoundation of Northern Colorado. This is a secure site where you can enter any donation amount. Follow the directions on the website, and please be sure to designate KINARD in the 'Additional Notes' box. There is an opportunity for a \$350 fundraising match this year. Thank you for your consideration and support of this Kinard Give Next fundraiser!



****What is Give Next?***

[Give Next](#) is a school-based youth grantmaking program for middle and high school students in Larimer County. Each class receives funding from private donors in the Give Next program for grant-making to award to local nonprofits. The students are also encouraged to participate in fundraising to make a larger positive impact in their community. The year-long program begins with Give Next Kickoff Day, a day of information and inspiration. Back at their schools, students work together to identify community needs, choose a focus

area, create a mission statement, research nonprofits, volunteer, conduct site visits, review grant applications, and make funding decisions. At the end of the school year, students award grants to selected nonprofits. Give Next is made possible through the support of many community partners. Primary program implementation partners are the Bohemian Foundation and the NoCoFoundation.

For questions or more information, please contact Kinard Give Next Teachers:

Anne Flemming, aflemming@psdschools.org

Bethany Houston, bhouston@psdschools.org

Kinard Middle School

Winter Athletics

Congratulations to our boys basketball team on a successful season! All four of our teams battled hard throughout the season and showed tremendous growth. Our varsity team finished third place in the gold bracket of the district championship. Congratulations to Coach Giusti, his assistant coaches, and all the players for a strong season. Great job, Mustang athletes!



We look forward to cheering on our girls basketball team and our wrestlers in the coming weeks. See details below to register for these upcoming winter athletic opportunities. Reach out to Holly Garcia, Athletic Secretary, at 970-488-5414 or hgarcia@psdschools.org, or Kyle Healy, Athletic Director, at 970-488-5415 or khealy@psdschools.org with any questions.

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

1. Student athletes must be registered through [SportsEngine](#),
2. Students must have a current sports physical on file at Kinard.
3. Families must have paid the \$150 registration fee through [SchoolPay](#).

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 visit our registration page by clicking here.](#)

Kinard Middle School

Winter Athletics

continued

Sport Specific Information:

Girls Basketball - 7th and 8th grade girls

Team structure: Varsity, JV, C1 and C2 teams (limited roster/cut sport - up to 36 total players)

Preseason camp: Tuesday, 1/6 - Friday 1/9, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

*Tryouts: Monday 1/12 - Wednesday 1/14, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

Team practice: Starting Thursday, 1/15, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Gym

**Players must have a current physical on file, be registered through SportsEngine, and have paid the \$150 fee to participate in tryouts. For those players who do not make the team, the registration fee will be refunded.*

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

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

Preseason camp: Tuesday, 1/6 - Friday, 1/9, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Auxiliary Gym

Team practice: Starting Monday, 1/12, 3:30 - 5:30 PM in the Kinard Auxiliary Gym

Drop-off & Pick-up Traffic Safety Reminders

As the weather is colder and chances of snowy days are upon us, we wanted to raise your level of awareness as it pertains to drop-off and pick-up procedures. **Please remember that the traffic queue on Trilby Road is a moving lane. Please do not attempt to stop and wait for your child on Trilby Rd., as it blocks cars from entering the oval.**

In addition, read the list below for recommendations for dropping your child(ren) off in the mornings. You can also review our comprehensive [Kinard Traffic Guidelines](#) that outline safe practices during the drop-off/pick-up process.

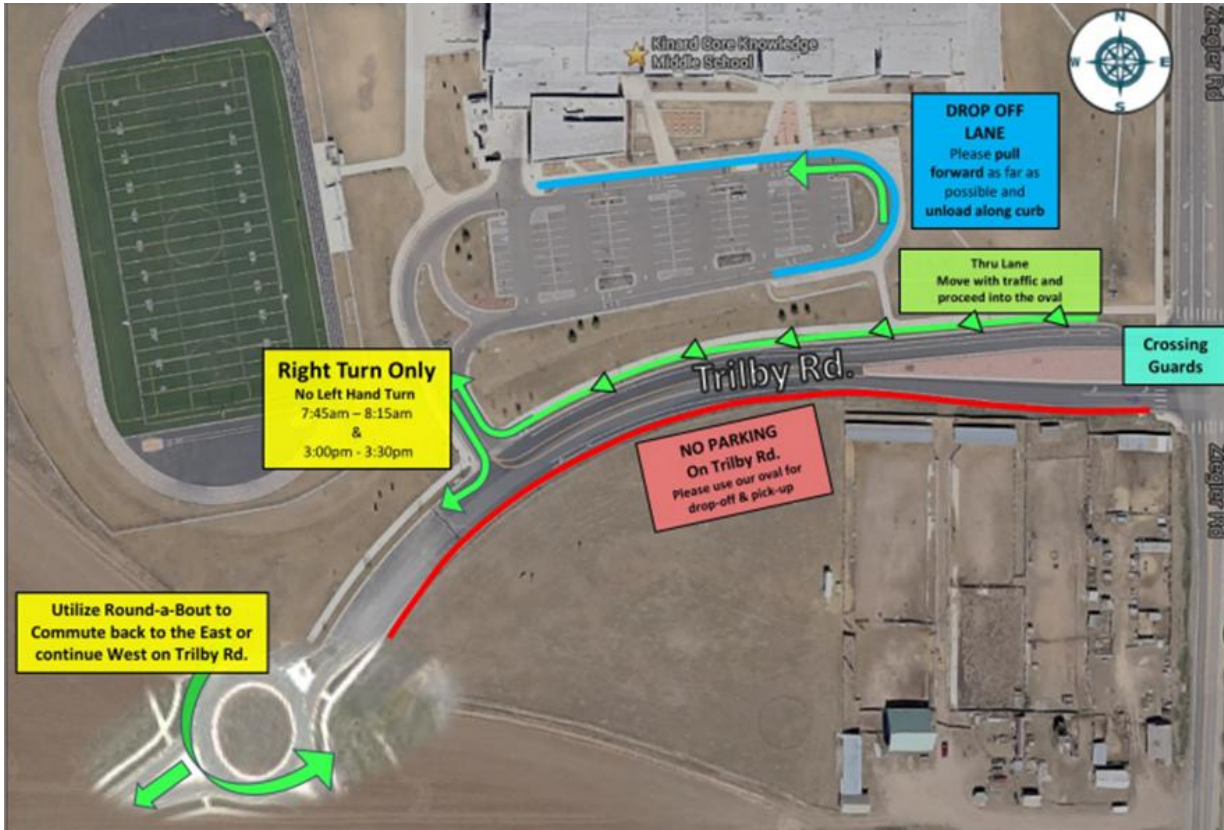
- Leave a little earlier to help avoid congestion on icy roads.
- Please always use **the drop-off lane next to the curb only.**
- **No u-turns on Trilby-** Please proceed westbound and utilize the round-a-bout if you need to turn back towards Ziegler Rd.
- Pull your car as far forward along the drop-off and pick-up lane before stopping your vehicle.
- Students should get out along the entire curb area. If you have come to the concrete sidewalk area in the oval, have your child get out and walk along the sidewalk.
- Please have your students ready to exit the car promptly. If your child is not ready to get out of the car, please pull into a parking stall. You can then use the crosswalk and walk your child in when they are ready.
- Students are to exit their vehicle only on the passenger side.
- Parents are to remain inside their cars- please do not leave your car unattended. Parking is not allowed in the drop-off/pick-up lane.

As always, we appreciate your attention to these matters and for helping us to create a safe and positive school environment. We need your help to keep the flow of traffic moving and our families safe in the parking lot. Every child's safety is important to us. It remains our highest priority to ensure that students enter and exit cars in a safe and organized way.

continued on next page

Drop-off & Pick-up Traffic Safety Reminders

continued



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Monday, January 19, 2026. Click [here](#) for more information and to join the community events.



Kinard Middle School

Future Sabercat Night

Join the Fossil Ridge Boys Basketball Team at their youth night on January 6, 2026- see details in the flyer below!

FUTURE SABERCAT NIGHT

KINARD PRESTON TIMNATH



JANUARY 6TH 7:00 PM
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A FREE FOSSIL TSHIRT

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