CONNECTION

Kearsley Community Schools

DECEMBER 2025















KEARSLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION
4396 Underhill Drive, Flint MI 48506 ..... **810-591-8000**
Paul Gaudard, Superintendent of Schools
Peter LoFiego, Deputy Superintendent
Sarah Courneya, Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Grants
Kelli-Ann Fazer, Director of Student Services

KEARSLEY HIGH SCHOOL
4302 Underhill Drive, Flint MI 48506 ..... **810-591-9883**
Dr. David Ersig, Principal
Brandon Marks, Assistant Principal
Keith Saxton, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal

KEARSLEY VIRTUAL ACADEMY
4396 Underhill Drive, Flint MI 48506 ..... **810-591-9883**
Brandon Marks, Principal

ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL
6161 Hopkins Drive, Flint MI 48506..... **810-591-9929**
Lisa Oetting, Principal
Matt Moore, Assistant Principal

FIEDLER ELEMENTARY
6317 Nightingale Drive, Flint MI 48506..... **810-591-9925**
Kristi Cummings, Principal

DOWDALL ELEMENTARY
3333 Shillelagh Drive, Flint MI 48506..... **810-591-2274**
Kelly Fisher, Principal

WESTON ELEMENTARY
2499 Cashin Street, Burton MI 48509 ..... **810-591-2336**
Sarah Wood, Principal

PUMPKIN PATCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
4235 Crosby Road, Flint MI 48506..... **810-591-3585**
Douglas Hibbs, Early Childhood Principal/ Title IX Coordinator

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Robert Ploof, President

Chad Langworthy, Vice President

Maureen Callahan, Secretary

Richard Hill, Treasurer

Dr. Chad Boggs, Trustee

Kelly Fenner, Trustee

Tami Swanson, Trustee

The Kearsley Community Schools Board of Education is a 7-member body elected by the residents of the school district. Board members serve 6-year terms.

MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 12, 2026	6:00 pm	Buffey Early Childhood
February 9, 2026	6:00 pm	Weston Elementary
March 9, 2026	6:00 pm	Fiedler Elementary
April 13, 2026	6:00 pm	Kearsley High School
May 11, 2026	6:00 pm	Armstrong Middle School
June 8, 2026	6:00 pm	Eastside Senior Center
July 13, 2026	6:00 pm	Administration Building

The Kearsley Board of Education meets on the second Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. Meetings will be posted at least 18 hours in advance at the entrances to the administration and school buildings, and on the district's website.

Meetings are open to the public, and anyone wishing to attend may do so. Those needing assistance should contact the Superintendent's office at least five days prior to the meeting date by sending an email to tcorchad@kearsleyschools.org or call 810-591-7611.

Superintendent's Message...

Kearsley families,

As we wind down 2025, I want to express my gratitude for the partnership and support of our Kearsley families and community. The holidays offer a chance to reflect on our many celebrations, strengthened relationships and memorable moments across our schools.

One of our district's top priorities this year has been **deepening connection and belonging and that focus is evident in every building.** Through classroom circles, student leadership opportunities, and the daily interactions that shape our culture, our goal remains to continue to create spaces where every single Kearsley Hornet feels valued and supported.

This fall also brought two remarkable community events that highlighted what Kearsley is all about. **Homecoming 2025** once again showcased our traditions and school pride with outstanding participation from students, families and alumni. On Homecoming Friday, I had the opportunity to give members of the Kearsley Class of 1975 a tour of our high school and some of the recent improvements. I think it's safe to say they walked away impressed with what they saw. And just a few weeks later, our annual **Harvest Fest** welcomed more than 1,500 attendees, 100+ staff volunteers and several valued community partners. It was an incredible demonstration of what it looks like when we all come together to build community. These moments truly reflect our district theme of "Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers."

As we move into the holiday season, I also want to recognize the incredible generosity displayed by our community. Each year, our students, staff, and families step up in meaningful ways to support others through Christmas charities, adopt-a-family efforts, food drives, and gift donations. These acts of kindness ensure that many of our local families experience a brighter holiday season, and they speak volumes about who we are as a district. Thank you to everyone who contributed time, resources, or support to assist others. Instructionally, we remain focused on literacy, student talk, and implementing the science of reading. Alongside this, our teams continue to advance restorative practices, re-imagine elementary science instruction, and expand career pathway opportunities for our high school students. Our ongoing bond work and building renovations are enhancing learning



environments that will serve students for years to come.

I hope the holiday season allows you time to rest, reflect, and connect with those who matter most. On behalf of everyone at Kearsley Community Schools, **thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and support.**

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a positive start to 2026.

Go Hornets!



Sincerely,

Paul Gaudard
Superintendent of Schools

HALL OF FAME

Celebrate Kearsley's Legacy - Nominate Today!

We're looking for outstanding alumni, retired staff, and teams who represent the heart of Kearsley's motto: Pride, Tradition, and Excellence. If someone has made a lasting impact on our schools or community, we'd love to consider them for the Kearsley Hall of Fame.

A committee of staff and community representatives will thoughtfully review all nominations.

DEADLINE TO NOMINATE: JANUARY 13, 2026.

bit.ly/43FF8EZ

WELCOME HOME 2025!

Kearsley Community Schools celebrated Homecoming, September 29-October 4, 2025. It was a memorable week, full of spirited activities!



Cheering on our Hornets!



Marching Band 2025 show: "Wicked"



Homecoming 2025 Queen, Lily Weidman



Homecoming 2025 King, Ethan Billing



Powderpuff Champions - Juniors, Class of 2027



Queens Court, Seniors



Sophomores' Parade Float



King's Court, Seniors



KHS Tennis



KHS Boys Bowling



Class of 1975 touring KHS

HOMECOMING

GO HORNETS!





























CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATES

It's an exciting time in our district! We're pleased to share updates on some of the building projects we've completed. By leveraging funding from a variety of sources, we have been able to deliver on all projects included in the May 2022 bond scope and well beyond.

Celebrating Dowdall Elementary's New Addition

Dowdall Elementary is growing and improving! On Monday, September 8, we celebrated the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of our brand-new building addition. Board of Education President Robert Ploof welcomed families and staff, and Principal Kelly Fisher highlighted how the new spaces will benefit 2nd- and 3rd-grade students. Student Faith Hampton shared her excitement about the bright, modern learning areas.

Adding to the celebration, 3rd Grade Student Council leaders led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave a fun presentation on Dowdall's history and Points of Pride. Students participating included Dradin Cudd, Owen Gilbert, Faith Hampton, Jaxx Jourdan, Eloise Maccombs, Skylar Rochford, Nayeli Sanson, Laikyn Schubert, Drew Tibor, and Uriah Wright.







WHAT'S NEW AT DOWDALL

The 6,882 sq. ft. addition includes:

- Multi-purpose center
- Secure entrance
- Front office & conference room
- Renovated classrooms with new furniture
- Updated flooring and signage
- Fire alarm replacement

COMING SOON:
A new digital sign and a renovated kitchen to continue enhancing our school!

Dowdall Elementary's updates reflect our commitment to providing safe, innovative, and inspiring learning environments for every Hornet.





AMS Learning Center: Where Students Learn Collaborate & Thrive

Armstrong Middle School's newly constructed and renovated Learning Center represents a major investment in student learning and innovation. The 31,207-square-foot space now features a **modern library**, flexible **collaborative learning areas** equipped with advanced technology, and a hands-on, **entrepreneurial student-run café** designed to support real-world learning experiences.

This transformation was made possible through the 2022 Bond/Capital Fund and reflects the district's commitment to creating engaging, future-ready learning environments. Additional improvements funded at Armstrong Middle School include a secure entrance, updated front office and conference room, a new Collaboration Zone, corridor flooring replacement, and a new fire alarm system.

The new Learning Center was officially introduced to the community during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on Wednesday, November 5. The event included remarks from district leadership and students, Jaxon Hadaway 8th grade and Kaydence Sigmund 7th grade, highlighting the impact of the space and the community support that brought the project to life.



And there's more ahead. Coming soon to Armstrong Middle School are the University of Michigan RAHS Health Center, renovated science labs and STEM spaces, and an E-Sports room—further expanding opportunities for students.













FOLLOW OUR CAPITAL PROJECTS AT WWW.KEARSLEYSCHOOLS.ORG/PAGE/CAPITAL-PROJECTS

These projects have been made possible by the support of our community, and we are thankful for your continued investment and support of our children and schools.

BUILDING BRIDGES BREAKING BARRIERS

District-Wide Training and Commitment



Strong relationships and a **caring community** are essential to our students' success. As part of this effort, all Kearsley staff have been trained by Ali Hearn, LCSW, in foundational restorative practices and community-building strategies which are being implemented across every school to create **supportive, connected environments.**

While traditional consequences like detention or suspension are still used when necessary, we are shifting toward a more **proactive approach.** This includes circles, restorative conversations, and collaborative problem-solving that help students repair relationships, take responsibility for their actions, and build empathy.

This work aligns with our **2025–26 theme: Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers,** helping every student feel known, valued, and supported. Together with families, we are creating a stronger, more connected Kearsley community where students can grow academically, socially, and personally.

Students Lead the Way in Community Building

In October, several students from **Kearsley High School** and **Armstrong Middle School** participated in the first-ever **two-day Community Building & Restorative Practices Student Summit,** also led by Hearn.



They joined students from five local districts to explore strategies for strengthening relationships and creating positive, supportive school communities.

Our students returned **energized, inspired, and eager to share** what they learned with their teachers and peers—helping to bring these powerful practices back to Kearsley!

BUILDING SKILLS SHAPING FUTURES

Kearsley High School remains dedicated to providing meaningful, hands-on learning experiences for ALL students. We empower every learner to explore their interests, develop essential skills, and prepare for a successful future.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE):

• Our state-of-the-art **SME PRIME® Tooling Technology Lab** immerses students in advanced manufacturing through machining, fabrication, precision measurement, and safety training on industry-standard equipment. This pathway leads directly to high-demand careers in manufacturing, engineering, and industrial technology.

• Students in the Business & Marketing program operate the **Hornets Nest School Store,** gaining hands-on experience in retail, merchandising, customer service, financial management, and marketing. This practical training prepares them for careers in business, marketing, hospitality, retail, and finance.

• **Mechanical Drafting** gives students hands-on experience with industry-standard CAD® software, teaching technical drawing, blueprint reading, and core design principles. Students gain a strong foundation for careers in architecture, engineering, product design, and advanced manufacturing.

• **NEW!** - Students in the **Teacher Cadet Program** gain hands-on experience and mentorship in Kearsley elementary classrooms. They explore instructional strategies, child development, and classroom management, building professional skills for careers in teaching, counseling, and other education-related fields.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE):

• **Project SEARCH** offers students with disabilities an immersive workplace experience in partnership with our local Center Rd. Meijer. Through department internships and on-site training, students develop employability skills, gain confidence, and prepare for successful transition into competitive employment.

• **NEW!** - **KHS Design Lab** provides hands-on experience in apparel creation, graphic design, and small-business operations. Students create custom apparel for schools, sports teams, and community organizations while developing teamwork, creativity, and customer service skills.

• **NEW!** - At the **Transitions Café,** students run a full-service café, learning barista skills, SafeServe® food preparation, hospitality, money management, and customer interaction. This hands-on, supportive environment builds independence and prepares students for careers in food service, retail, and hospitality.









Harvest FESTIVAL

A Night of Fun & Community

Kearsley's Harvest Fest 2025 was a truly special event for our community and families! More than 1,500 attendees joined us on Tuesday night for an evening filled with connection, fun, and spooky spirit.

A huge thank-you to our partners: Emmanuel Church, St. Mark's Church, Mott Children's Dental, Girl Scouts, Chartwells K12, the Great Start Readiness Program, Michigan State Police, the Kearsley Board of Education and staff, Kearsley Community Enrichment & Recreation, and our amazing KHS student volunteers for their incredible contributions and generosity.





EL Family Night: Learning & Fun Together



We celebrated another successful English Learners (EL) Family Night on November 13 at the High School Media Center. Families enjoyed time together over a delicious meal prepared by Kearsley's own Chef Kevin.

Guests also learned about Summit K12, an online learning program that helps children and adults strengthen their English proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Meanwhile, students made new friends through games, activities, and arts and crafts.

A heartfelt thank-you to all the volunteers and the Kearsley staff, families, and friends who made this evening possible!



JANUARY

1-2	No school, Holiday Break, no school
12	Board of Education Meeting
16	End of 1st Semester
19-20	No school, MLK Day & staff professional development

February

4	1-Hour Early Release
9	Board of Education Meeting
16	President's Day, no school

March

4	No school, staff professional development
5	KHS Mid-Year Honors Convocation
9	Board of Education Meeting
12	Kindergarten Round Up Begins
18	1-Hour Early Release
27	End of 2nd Marking Period
30-31	Spring Break, no school through April 3



Kearsley families, the calendar for the 2026–2027 school year is now available!

Scan the QR code or visit the link to view important dates for the upcoming school year.

bit.ly/4o96D0V

winter weather



As we are entering the season of possible school closings/delays due to inclement weather or circumstances, please verify your contact information, phone number and email, is up to date in ParentVUE.



KEARSLEY NOTIFIES FAMILIES OF SNOW DAYS, USING:

- Automated phone calls, text messages and emails
- Broadcast notifications through WJRT-TV Channel 12 & WCRZ-108 FM

If you need assistance with ParentVUE, please call your child's school building. Phone numbers are on page 2.

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HORNET FITNESS CLUB EXPANDED EVENING HOURS!





Kearsley's Community Recreation Center is now open **Monday–Thursday from 7:15–9:00 p.m.** for Fitness Club members (excluding game nights).

Morning hours are **Monday-Friday from 5:30-8:00 a.m.** when Kearsley Schools are in session.

This extended time is the perfect opportunity to focus on your fitness goals, stay active, and connect with our Hornet community!

***Calendar is updated monthly**

Community members can access this state-of-the-art facility by joining the Hornet Fitness Club for an annual membership of $50. Membership is available to adults (18+) who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- A resident of the Kearsley School District
- A parent or guardian of a current Kearsley Schools student
- A Kearsley Schools staff member or retiree

Please note: Children are not eligible for individual membership.

View the **NEW Fitness Club calendar*** and learn how to become a member: **https://www.kearsleyschools.org/page/hornet-fitness-club**

bit.ly/HornetFitnessClub