CONNECTION

Kearsley Community Schools

AUGUST 2026

Buzz reaches for the STARS at Longway Planetarium



Welcome Back Hornets!

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

GO BEYOND 26-27

KEARSLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION

4396 Underhill Dr., 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, Executive Director of Student Services
Ashley Livingston, Executive Director of Business and Finance

KEARSLEY HIGH SCHOOL

4302 Underhill D., Flint MI 48506 ..... **810-591-9883**
Dr. David Ersig, Principal
Carrie Schaaf, Assistant Principal
Keith Saxton, Assistant Principal
Alan Margrif, Athletic Director

KEARSLEY VIRTUAL ACADEMY

4396 Underhill Dr., Flint MI 48506 ..... **810-591-9883**
Olivia Lake-LoFiego, Counselor

ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

6161 Hopkins Dr., Flint MI 48506 ..... **810-591-9929**
Megan Yelle, Principal
Charles Ferrell, Assistant Principal

FIEDLER ELEMENTARY

6317 Nightingale Dr., Flint MI 48506 ..... **810-591-9925**
Kristi Cummings, Principal

DOWDALL ELEMENTARY

3333 Shillelagh Dr., Flint MI 48506..... **810-591-2274**
Kelly Fisher, Principal

WESTON ELEMENTARY

2499 Cashin St., Burton, MI 48509 ..... **810-591-2336**
Sarah Wood, Principal

PUMPKIN PATCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AT BUFFEY

4235 Crosby Rd., Flint MI 48506..... **810-591-3585**
Douglas Hibbs, Early Childhood Principal/ Title IX Coordinator

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chad Langworthy, President

Dr. Chad Boggs, Vice President

Robert Ploof, Secretary

Maureen Callahan, Treasurer

Kelly Fenner, Trustee

Richard Hill, 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
August 10	6:00 pm	Burgtorf Operations Center
September 14	6:00 pm	Burgtorf Operations Center
October 12	6:00 pm	Armstrong Middle School
November 9	6:00 pm	Buffey Early Childhood
December 14	6:00 pm	Burgtorf Operations Center
January 11	6:00 pm	Dowdall Elementary
February 8	6:00 pm	Fiedler Elementary
March 8	6:00 pm	Weston Elementary
April 12	6:00 pm	Kearsley High School
May 10	6:00 pm	Eastside Senior Center
June 14	6:00 pm	Burgtorf Operations Center
July 12	6:00 pm	Burgtorf Operations Center

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,

Welcome Back! As we begin the new school year, we are excited to introduce our 2026–2027 theme: **Go Beyond!** Last year, our theme of Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers challenged us to strengthen relationships, create a greater sense of belonging, and remove obstacles that can stand in the way of student learning and success. That work remains critically important and this year we will continue building on that foundation.

"Go Beyond" does not simply mean doing more. It means going deeper and finding new ways to support, challenge, and inspire every single one of our Kearsley Hornets. Throughout the year, this theme will be reflected in our continued focus on improving attendance, strengthening behavioral supports, and helping students feel connected to their schools and community.

We will also go beyond by thoughtfully preparing students and staff for a rapidly changing world. This includes the responsible and purposeful use of artificial intelligence, expanded STEM learning opportunities through our new elementary innovation and studio lab specials courses, and stronger integration of science into elementary learning.

None of this work happens through programs or initiatives alone. It happens because of the dedication of our staff, the partnership of our families, and the support of our Kearsley community. Every encouraging conversation, every bit of extra effort, and every opportunity created for a student helps move us forward.

We have also had a busy summer preparing our schools for the year ahead. Just a few of the many improvements include the completion of the new science lab at Armstrong Middle School, kindergarten and special education classroom renovations at Weston Elementary, cafeteria and kitchen remodel at Dowdall Elementary, partial roof replacement at Kearsley High School, and updated classroom numbering and safety signage throughout the district. We look forward to a year filled with growth and possibility as we Go Beyond for every Kearsley Hornet!

Let's make it a great school year!

Go Hornets!



Sincerely,

Paul Gaudard
Superintendent of Schools

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

KEARSLEY HIGH SCHOOL
Orientation for ALL 9-12 students & families:
- Wed., Aug. 12
  4:00-7:00 pm

** Dinner served to all attending*

KEARSLEY VIRTUAL ACADEMY
Details will be emailed to students & families soon.

ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th Grade & New Student Orientation
Choice of Times:
- Tues., Aug. 18
  10:00-11:00 am, OR
- Tues., Aug. 18
  6:00-7:00 pm

Open House Grades 6-8:
- Tues., Aug. 25
  6:00-7:00 pm

FIEDLER ELEMENTARY
Grade 4:
- Wed., Aug. 19
  4:00-5:00 pm

Gr 4 Orientation,
- Last Name A-H ~ 3:30-4:00 pm

Gr 4 Orientation,
- Last Name I-Z ~ 4:00-4:30 pm

Grade 5: Wed.,
- Aug. 19 ~ 5:30-6:30 pm

DOWDALL ELEMENTARY
Grade 2:
- Tues., Aug. 18
  5:30-6:30 pm

Grade 3:
- Tues., Aug. 18
  4:00-5:00 pm

WESTON ELEMENTARY
Kindergarten:
- Thurs., Aug. 20
  5:30-6:30 pm

Grade 1:
- Thurs., Aug. 20
  4:00-5:00 pm

PUMPKIN PATCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
Buffey/Pumpkin Patch Young 5s & Daycare:
- Thurs., Aug. 20
  4:30-6:00 pm

Location: Buffey



SUMMER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:



This summer has been a busy one across Kearsley Community Schools as we continue investing in safe, modern, and engaging learning environments for our students. Improvement projects are taking place in every Kearsley building, with most scheduled for completion before the start of the school year. A few larger projects will continue into the fall.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- Classroom and exterior numbering and signage for improved safety and consistency



BUFFEY / PUMPKIN PATCH

- Classroom renovations

WESTON ELEMENTARY

- Food Service generator installation
- Gym improvements
- Hallway flooring replacement
- Kindergarten and specials classroom renovations



DOWDALL ELEMENTARY

- Cafeteria and kitchen remodel
- Digital sign installation
- Food Service generator installation

FIEDLER ELEMENTARY

- Food service generator installation

ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Completion of science lab renovation
- Completion of Room 900 renovation with a new teacher's lounge and a state-of-the-art e-sports room
- Replacement of concrete at north end of building



KEARSLEY HIGH SCHOOL

- Auditorium entrance concrete replacement
- Completion of RAHS Health Center renovations
- Pool painting, tile repair, and a new public address system
- Roof repairs and partial roof replacement
- Installation of new visiting football team bleachers

BURGTORF OPERATIONS CENTER

- General facility improvements,including the creation of additional meeting spaces

These projects reflect our ongoing commitment to providing every Kearsley student and staff member with safe, functional, and inspiring spaces to learn and grow. We are incredibly grateful to our Kearsley community for your continued investment in our schools. Your support makes these improvements possible and helps ensure a bright future for every Kearsley Hornet!

AUGUST 2026

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	½ FD	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER 2026

		1	2	3	NO	5
6	NO	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	Homecoming	26
27	28	29	NO			

OCTOBER 2026

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	1HR	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	NO	31

NOVEMBER 2026

1	2	3	4	5	NO	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	1HR	19	20	21
22	23	24	NO	NO	NO	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2026

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	1HR	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	26
27	NO	NO	NO	NO		

JANUARY 2027

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					NO	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	NO	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY 2027

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	NO	13
14	NO	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	1HR	25	26	27
28						

MARCH 2027

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	1HR	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	NO	27
28	NO	NO	NO			

APRIL 2027

				NO	NO	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	NO	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2027

2	3	4	1HR	6	7	1/8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	NO					

JUNE 2027

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	½ LD	Graduation
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Calendar Key

- ½ ..... Half Day
- FD ..... First Day of School, **Aug. 24**
- NO ..... No School
- 1HR ..... One-Hour Early Release
- PT ..... PT Conferences, Nov. 2-5 TBD
  Regular school days for students
- LD ..... Last Day of School, **June 4**

Daily Schedules

Kearsley High School: 810-591-9883

Daily Schedule: 7:30 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.
½ Day: 7:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., Aug. 25 only,
Exam schedule for Jan. & June TBD
Early Release: 7:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Armstrong (Grades 6-8): **810-591-9929**

Daily Schedule: 7:30 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.
½ Day: 7:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
Early Release: 7:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Fiedler (Grades 4-5): **810-591-9925**

Daily Schedule: 8:15 a.m. -3:05 p.m.
½ Day: 8:15 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.
Early Release: 8:15 a.m. - 2:05 p.m.

Dowdall (Grades 2-3): **810-591-2274**

Daily Schedule: 8:30 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.
½ Day: 8:30 a.m. -11:35 a.m.
Early Release: 8:30 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Weston (Grades K-1): **810-591-8483**

Daily Schedule: 8:35 a.m. -3:25 p.m.
½ Day: 8:35 a.m. -11:45 a.m.
Early Release: 8:35 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Pumpkin Patch/Buffey (Y5): **810-591-3585**

Daily Schedule: 8:20 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.
½ Day: 8:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Early Release: 8:20 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Administration Building: 810-591-8000

Transportation/Bus: 810-591-7623

2026-2027 Calendar
KEARSLEY SCHOOLS

Calendar subject to change. Please visit KearsleySchools.org for updates.

2026-2027 BUILDING SCHEDULES

KHS
Grades: 9-12
Start: **7:30 am**
Dismissed: **2:20 pm**

ARMSTRONG
Grades: 6-8
Start: **7:30 am**
Dismissed: **2:20 pm**

FIEDLER
Grades: 4 & 5
Start: **8:15 am**
Dismissed: **3:05 pm**

DOWDALL
Grades: 2 & 3
Start: **8:30 am**
Dismissed: **3:20 pm**

WESTON
Grades: K & 1
Start: **8:35 am**
Dismissed: **3:25 pm**

PUMPKIN PATCH @ BUFFEY
GSRP & Young 5s
Start: **8:20 am**
Dismissed: **3:10 pm**

Student's Suggested Supply List



https://www.kearsleyschools.org/page/school-supplies

ATHLETICS

ADMISSION FEES:

HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS: $5

MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS: $3

KEARSLEY ATHLETIC PASS: 10-punches/admissions - $25

Fall athletic schedules for AMS & KHS teams are available at KearsleyAthletics.org.

Purchasing a Kearsley Athletics Pass offers a significant savings over paying regular admission prices.

Each card has 10-punches, and admits one individual per punch. They may be purchased beginning Aug. 12 from the KHS Athletic Office & at athletic events. Athletic Passes do not expire, previous years' may be used.

Volunteer Screening Form

Kearsley encourages active participation in district activities and committees by parents/guardians.

Volunteers are required to complete the "Volunteer Screening Form" for EACH event, party, field trip or sports/activity season you plan to volunteer.

Learn more: bit.ly/KCSVolunteer

DISTRICT SAFETY

We know our families trust us each day to ensure the safety of their students. This is a responsibility we don't take lightly.

Visiting a Kearsley School?

Here's What to Expect:

All Kearsley school buildings now have secure entrances to help keep students and staff safe. Enter through the exterior doors into a secure, temperature-controlled lobby.

- Use the doorbell or speak with the staff member at the security desk.

You'll be asked a few brief security questions before entering the main office. It is possible that you may see a staff member or other visitor be admitted directly into the office without being asked the same questions. This is because they have been pre-approved.

Thank you for your patience as we maintain a consistent and safe process for all visitors.





Kearsley requires volunteers who work with our children to undergo a criminal history background check, conducted through Michigan State Police's iChat system. This process is conducted with complete confidentiality and information obtained is used solely for the purpose of ensuring the safety and well-being of our students.

Background checks MUST take place when volunteers are responsible for supervision of students and have regular contact with other students.

Examples would be:

- Volunteering in classroom
- Supervising and participating in classroom parties
- Chaperoning field trips
- Volunteer coaching and mentoring

Situations where a background check is NOT necessary include:

- Attending after-school events
- Awards ceremonies where visitors are seated away from students
- Activities when adults solely interact with their own child

To ensure that the process can be completed properly, all volunteers must complete their volunteer application at least four (4) business days prior to the activity occurring.

For more details about volunteering & to complete the screening form, visit:

https://www.kearsleyschools.org/page/volunteer

We appreciate the individuals who devote their time and energy to making our schools a better place.

Thank you!

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Kearsley Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age, religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, “Protected Classes”) in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on Protected Classes that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Board of Education’s nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policies:

DOUGLAS HIBBS
Early Childhood Principal/ Title IX Coordinator
810-591-3501 | dhibbs@kearsleyschools.org

KELLI-ANN FAZER
Executive Director of Student Services
810-591-7604 | kfazer@kearsleyschools.org

PRIVACY NOTICE

Parents, you have the right to keep your child’s personal information private. Please understand that by filing a request to keep contact information private, your child’s name and/or picture will also be omitted from the following:

- **YEARBOOK**
- **HONOR ROLL LISTINGS**
- **SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS**
- **HONORS PROGRAMS**
- **ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**
- **EVENTS your child participated in & might receive recognition for.**



* Contact your child’s school building office for additional information & forms for this use.

Protecting Student Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA provides certain rights for parents regarding their children’s education records.

To view the US Dept. of Education’s “A Parent Guide to FERPA,” visit: https://bit.ly/3Da8PQT



School buses are the safest way to get children to and from school, but injuries can occur if kids are not careful when getting on and off the school bus.

BEFORE THE BUS ARRIVES

- Your child should arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus arrives.
- Walk with your young kids to the bus stop and wait with them until it arrives.
- Remind your child that the bus stop is not a place to run or play.

RIDING THE BUS SAFELY

- When the bus arrives, wait for it to come to a complete stop, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay to get on or off.
- Use handrails to avoid falling.
- Walk straight to your seat and keep the aisles clear.
- Speak in quiet voices and always listen to the driver.

ALWAYS USE CAUTION AROUND THE BUS

- Your child should never walk behind a school bus.
- If your child drops something, they should tell the bus driver and make sure the bus driver is able to see them before they pick it up.
- Drivers should follow the speed limit and slow down in school zones and near bus stops.
- Remember to stay alert and look for kids who may be trying to get to or from the school bus.
- Slow down and stop if you're driving near a school bus that is flashing yellow or red lights. This means the bus is either preparing to stop or already stopped and children are getting on or off.

Learn more about bus safety by visiting: www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety

During the first few weeks of school, please allow extra time for bus pick up & drop off.
Our bus drivers may have to make adjustments due to the number of students riding each bus and stops.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact **Kearsley's Bus Transportation at 810-591-7623.**



TRANSPORTATION

Kearsley buses travel over 1,000 miles each day—and we want every trip to be a safe one for our Hornets!

2026-2027 Bus Routes

NEW! Kearsley bus routes are published online for families. Use the QR code, or visit our website to see your child's route - **www.kearsleyschools.org/page/transportation**

Please note: During the first few weeks of school, allow extra time for pick-up and drop-off as routes may be adjusted based on student ridership.

STAY INFORMED WITH THE MY RIDE K-12 APP

We're partnering with families using My Ride K-12, a free app from Tyler Technologies, to improve communication and keep you up to date.

With My Ride K-12, you can:
View your student's bus number, driver's name, stop location, and pick-up/drop-off times

- Track the approximate location of the bus
- Receive real-time notifications from our transportation department

Getting started - Visit our website, using the QR code on this page, to learn how to set up your account.

KEARSLEY BUS ROUTES
& My Ride K-12 App

QUESTIONS?

Have questions, or need help setting up My Ride K-12, **please contact:** Rachelle Stewart, Maintenance/Transportation Secretary
810-591-7623 or rstewart@kearsleyschools.org



ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICES REGARDING KEARSLEY'S BUILDINGS

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Kearsley Community Schools strives to be good stewards of the land and to use appropriate best management practices to contribute to the improvement of water quality within the Flint River Watershed where we are located.

Kearsley has developed and implemented a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI) and a District Pollution Preventions Plan (DPPP) as required under the NPDES General Permit (Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems), and nesting agreement with Genesee County. The SWPPI and the DPPP has been developed by Kearsley Community Schools to decrease the discharge of pollutants from stormwater runoff, and to protect the waters of the State in compliance with the Federal and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality regulations.

For additional information regarding the Stormwater Program, SWPPI and DPPP please visit the district website: **https://bit.ly/3O9twTn**

PESTICIDE NOTICE

As required by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), Pesticide and Plant Management

Division, you are being notified that a pesticide application is scheduled for Kearsley buildings the second Friday of
each month.

Pesticides will be applied, in accordance with the Department of Agriculture regulations, and after school has been dismissed on an as-needed basis.

ASBESTOS

In accordance with Section 763.84 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), or the "Asbestos in Schools Rule," Kearsley Community Schools is notifying employees and building occupants or their legal guardians of activities conducted within the past school year involving the asbestos inspections, response actions, and post response action activities, including periodic reinspection and periodic surveillance activities that are planned or in progress at school district facilities.

During the coming school year, Kearsley Community Schools has planned the following activities related to asbestos-containing materials through the school district:

- Periodic surveillances will be completed every six months.
- The EPA requires that each school district reinspect all known and assumed asbestos-containing materials once every three years.
- There are no asbestos abatement projects scheduled for the next 12-months period.

AHERA management plans are available for review in each school building office or at the maintenance building.

COMMENTS ABOUT THESE NOTICES, OR QUESTIONS?
Please contact Operations Director Ron March at 810-591-7623 or rmarch@kearsleyschools.org.

4396 Underhill Drive
Flint, MI 48506

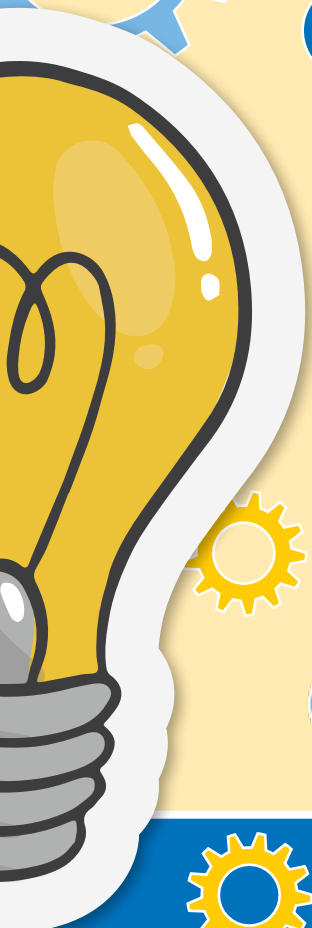
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STAYING IN THE KNOW

At Kearsley Community Schools, we are committed to maintaining open lines of communication with our students, families, and community.

To ensure you receive important information, please keep your contact information up to date in ParentVUE. Families are encouraged to review and update home addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses during annual registration and whenever changes occur.



MOBILE APP

Kearsley Community Schools partners with Apptegy to provide the Kearsley Community Schools mobile app, available for both iOS and Android devices. Through the app, families can customize notification preferences for individual school buildings, making it the fastest way to receive important district and school updates.

PHONE CALLS

Our automated phone notification system is used for:

- Daily attendance notifications for student absences
- District or building related announcements & reminders
- School closings or delays due to inclement weather or circumstances
- District and building announcements and reminders

TEXT MESSAGES

Text messages may be used for:

- District or building related announcements & reminders
- School closings or delays due to inclement weather or circumstances
- District and building announcements and reminders
- Communication from administrators, teachers, or coaches through approved messaging platforms, as needed

EMAIL

- Email is an important communication tool used by the district, schools, teachers, and coaches to share both individual and mass communications with students and families.
- If you are unable to receive district emails, please contact your school office for assistance.

LOCAL MEDIA

- School closings, delays, and other important notifications may also be shared through:
  - WJRT-TV Channel 12
  - WCRZ 107.9 FM

If you have questions or experience any issues receiving communications, please contact your student's school building office.