



FOCUS

September 2023

An update of news and events about Kent City Schools



Kent City Schools held its first “Purple Up” day when everyone was encouraged to wear purple to support military children in our district.



At the conclusion of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State 8-day summer program, delegates and rising seniors Ethan Young and Scottie Spears were both honored with an invitation to represent Ohio at Boys Nation held in Washington, D.C. in July.



Theodore Roosevelt High School partnered with OhioMeansJobs to host an end-of-the-year hiring event for students.

Larkin welcomed as new superintendent

As a new school year begins, Kent City Schools, its board of education members, and district staff welcome **Thomas P. Larkin** as our new superintendent. Larkin follows Superintendent **George Joseph** who retired at the end of July after nine years leading the district.



L to R: Luke, Shannon, Tom, Amy, and Riley Larkin

Larkin has been with Kent City Schools since 1996. He began his career with the district as a social studies teacher and basketball coach, and, most recently, served as the district’s assistant superintendent and director of personnel.

The Ohio School Boards Association facilitated the search, and the Kent Board of Education selected Larkin from a quality group of candidates from across the state. Board President **Brian Boykin** said, “We’ve worked with and respected Tom’s commitment to our district for many years...He has an open, collaborative leadership approach and will continue to be highly visible. His passion is our students and staff. He’s led and inspired people over his career and we know he’ll build on already established relationships with other administrators, staff, students, and business and community members.”

Larkin and his wife **Amy**, a math teacher at Roosevelt, reside in Kent. Their three children, **Shannon**, **Riley**, and **Luke**, are all Roosevelt graduates.

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To the Kent Community:

As Kent City Schools begins a new school year, I would

like to thank my predecessor **George Joseph** for his nine years of service to the district. George led the planning for the No New Tax bond issue, navigated the district through the pandemic, and managed multiple construction projects. His impact on the students of Kent and our community will be felt for years to come.

I have been fortunate to serve in many roles throughout my time in Kent and have learned much along the way. By far, the greatest influence on my success has come from the relationships I have built and the people I have come to know. I feel both excited and ready for this next step. Being the superintendent in the community where I live and have raised my family makes it even more meaningful.

As a Kent resident for over 27 years, I feel honored to lead this school district. This community is special to me and my family. There is a feeling of friendship and pride throughout. Our neighbors and friends live here. My wife and I shop and dine here. Our children, all 3 products of this wonderful district and amazing teachers, are proud to be forever Rough Riders. I am not only the superintendent but will always be our district's biggest cheerleader.

In this issue, you will see there's plenty to cheer about- from our talented student body to our outstanding teachers and staff. Please follow along on our district social media channels for more stories and updates during the year. GO RIDERS!!!

Tom Larkin
Superintendent



State Representative Gail Pavliga presenting a House Commendation to George Joseph during June Board of Education meeting.



Board News

Alicia R. Crowe was selected by the Kent Board of Education at a special meeting on July 13 to fill a vacant seat on the board. Dr. Crowe is the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education and Student Services, and a Professor in the College of Education, Health and Human Services at Kent State University. Crowe will

complete a term left by **Pamela Ferguson**, who served for nine years on the board, and resigned due to relocating out of the district. The term runs through December 31, 2023.

Pamela Ferguson celebrates her recognition for services to the Board with members of her family.



Ohio School Boards Association Northeast Regional Manager **Reno Contipelli** presented Kent City Schools Board President **Brian K. Boykin** with a 30 years of service plaque at our board meeting in April.



Employee News

Anthony Horton, former Stanton Principal, steps into the role of the district's Director of Personnel.

Kathy Scott, most recently an Assistant Principal at Stanton, moves up to Principal at Stanton.



T. J. Williams is the new Assistant Principal at Stanton.

Lindsay Zenker is the new Assistant Principal at Roosevelt.

Director of Business Services **Jim Soyars** was named the 2023 Dr. Emilio D. Ferrara Community Service Award recipient.



Davey Principal **Abbey Bolton** was presented with a Recognition of Service certificate for her advocacy and years of service to the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators by OAESA Executive Director **Dr. Becky Hornberger** and Associate Executive Director **Mark Jones** at our board meeting in May.

Thank you to our retirees

- **George Joseph** - Superintendent
- **Aaron Carlton** - School Counselor, Roosevelt
- **Thomas Franek** - Urban Forestry, Roosevelt
- **Linda Pollack** - Science, Roosevelt
- **Laura Fleming** - Lunch Monitor, Stanton
- **Mark Testa** - Custodian, Stanton
- **Caroline Lenzo** - Teacher, Davey Elementary
- **Kate Doty** - Intervention Specialist, Longcoy
- **Paula Shay** - Library Aide, Walls Elementary
- **Cynthia Lowther** - Bus Driver

HAPPY
retirement



TRHS Senior Class Graduated in May

The TRHS 2023 Senior Class graduated on May 21 at the KSU MAC Center.

Class Motto: "The moment you give up, is the moment you let someone else win." Kobe Bryant

Class Song: "Congratulations" by Post Malone

Class Flower: Purple Orchid

Class Colors: Red, White, and Black

Class Mascot: The Rough Rider

Seniors recognized at E3 Celebration

The E3 program at Theodore Roosevelt High School celebrates the Senior Class of 2023 and their Education, Enlistment, and Employment choices. During the E3 Signing Day, seniors are joined by high school faculty and staff, Kent City Schools District leaders and board members, and supporting businesses as they sign a certificate committing to themselves and their next step into young adulthood. Aramark sponsored a reception for the seniors with cookies and refreshments.

Seniors honored at annual awards ceremony

Congratulations to all of the recipients of senior awards held at a ceremony on May 18.



Kent Lions Club
Carson D'Sidocky and Delaney Lintz; Presenter Jane Gynn

News Channel 5 Best in Class and Akron Beacon Star Student
Jayanta Datta and Yulan Wang



Alf Lovell award winners
Saniya Moxley and Jonasis Smith

OHSAA Scholar Athletes
Logan Poole and Katie Keller



Military Recognition of Enlistment
Owen Staffer, Alexis Rieer, and Caleb Harstad



Mr. and Miss Rough Rider
Donovan Daetwyler and Taylor Dunlap;
Presenter Athletic Director Ben Dunlap



Benny Cowgill Character award
Sylvester Freeman



Glen Ludick Outstanding Senior awards
Madelyn Samaco and Cayden Foreman



Seal of Biliteracy
JP Antalek, Cole Ray, Margaux Rasalan, Yulan Wang, Emaan Kaiser, Aziza Gafurbekob, Ellie Mercer, Sedona McQueen, Duncan Bryk, Yousif Mohsin, Jayanta Datta, Katelyn Ingersoll, Hunter Morris, Peyton Singer



Kent City Schools

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Alicia R. Crowe



**Rebekah
Wright Kulis**



Tiera Moore

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Oh, the places you'll go...

Learning outside the classroom can help teachers create enthusiasm for learning and enables students to explore new environments. Most often these experiences are learning-related, like visits to museums and nature walks, and sometimes they're just plain fun, such as an end of the year bowling party in Kent. Some recent destinations our students visited included Akron Art Museum, McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Kent Free Library, Kent State University, Kent Fire Department, Kent Parks and Kent Lanes.

