



# The KURTZ CONNECTOR

## December 23

### Building Hours:

9:10 1st Bell (students may enter) / 9:15 2nd Bell (school starts) / 4:08 Dismissal

Early release - Students are released at 2:37.	12/5
McDonald's Night 5-7	12/7
PTA meeting at 9:30 in the cafeteria	12/13
Holiday Shop	12/13 through 12/15
Cocoa & Crafts from 6-7	12/19
Winter break	12/25 through 1/5
PTA meeting at 9:30 in the cafeteria	1/10
4th grade field trip to the DIA	1/10
Kids Healthy Heart Challenge assemblies	1/12
MLK Day - No School	1/15
Half day for records - Students dismissed at 12:40	1/19

### Attendance Matters

In the last few years, we have experienced a significant rise in what the state refers to as **chronic absenteeism**. **Chronic absence is defined as, "Students missing 10% or more of the total number of days enrolled during the school year, for any reason."** Letters are sent to parents of students who typically have missed 10 or more days of school. Parents may not be aware of the implications related to excessive days missed from school. You should be aware of the issues related to missing portions learning in multiple academic areas. Students who miss topics are expected to play catch up when they return. Students miss collaborative work and the important scaffolding that occurs in classrooms each day. With that being said, sicknesses, family emergencies and/or special circumstances are a part of the landscape in schools. We understand that things do happen, but hope parents go to great lengths to make sure students are at school each and every day from bell to bell.

**Late drop-offs and early pick-ups should also be avoided whenever possible.** We strongly encourage parents to work hard to get students to school by 9:15 and allow them to finish the day at 4:08. Parents should know that we are very proud of our pick-up and drop-off process at Kurtz. We have a solid average time of about twelve minutes for parents to drop off and pick up their child(ren). We work very hard to make the process safe, quick and run as smoothly as possible. If bussing is not a possibility for your family, please work with us to get your child to school on time and to keep the car loop line moving smoothly. Remember to respect the parents behind you by getting kids in and out of the vehicle quickly and safely and always moving forward in order to get the maximum amount of students in and out of cars. Our hope is that we always work together as a team in order to ensure the highest degree of success possible for every student at Kurtz.



# Follow US ONLINE!



Kurtz Elementary School



kurtzelementary



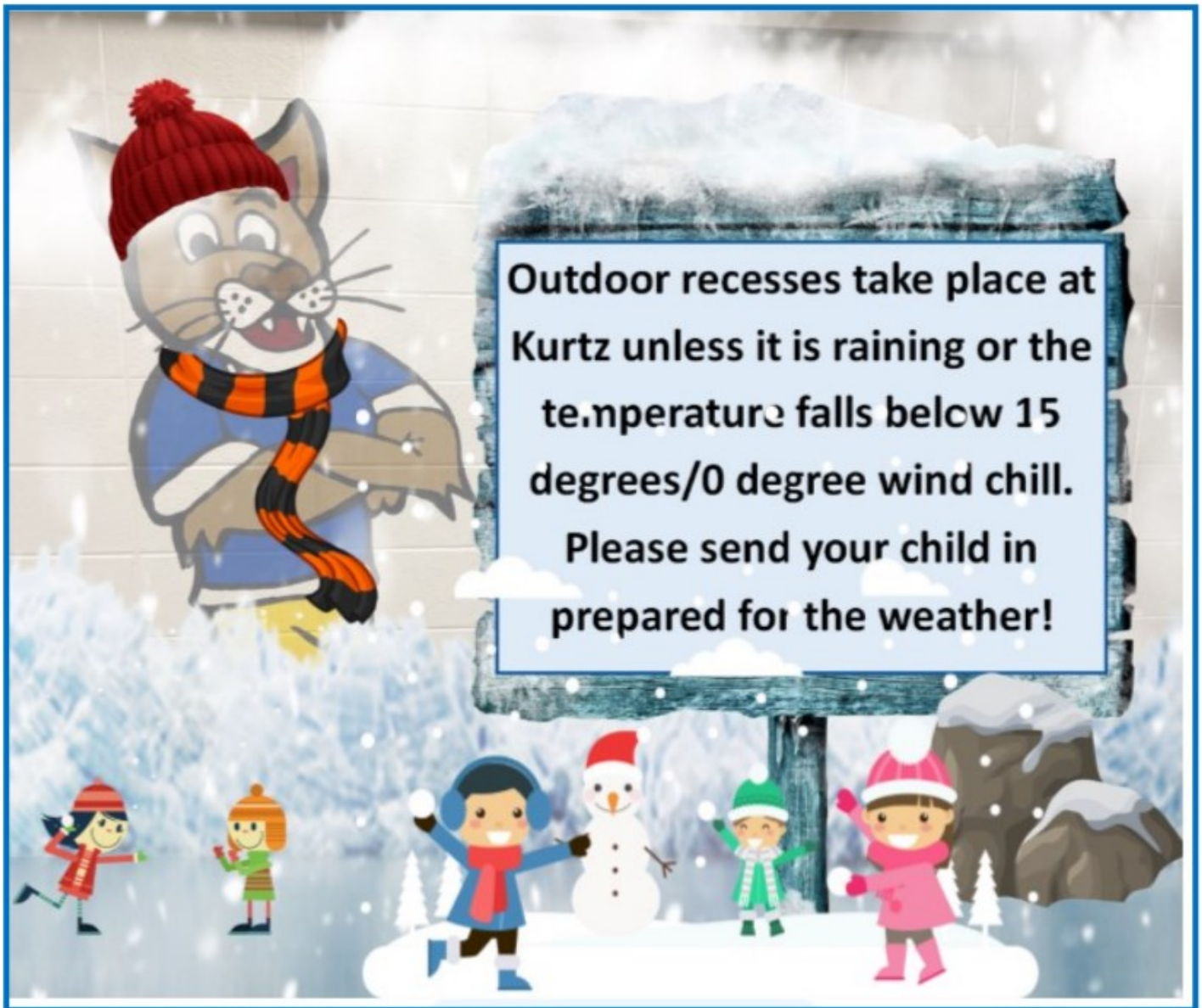
@kurtzelementary



Kurtz Elementary

## Trash Talkers Make a Difference at Kurtz!

A Trash Talker is a student that takes pride in their school by helping to keep it looking great. These students volunteer their time sweeping, dusting and helping Mrs. Oats around the building. We are so fortunate to have these students taking care of our building. Featured from left to right: Jack Craig, Alyssa Strait, Dominic Ralph, Sophia O'Neil and Davin Fear.



## Strategic Plan 2.0 - A Message from Dr. Salah

Dear HVS,

I hope this email finds you healthy and warm as we enter the cold winter season in Michigan. Yesterday evening we held our final Strategic Planning meeting with our community group. As a reminder, this group had students, elementary and secondary teachers, administrators, parents and community representatives. We started the Strategic Plan work back in September of 2022 and have finally reached an inflection point that includes a recommendation for our Board of Education to consider as we move forward and vision what our district will look like. While we developed a five year strategic plan, we certainly recognize the implications for our schools will exceed five years. Our intention was to forecast out the best ways with which we can meet the needs of students for decades.

From a high level perspective, the final recommendation adopted by the committee, includes the following key items:

- Repurpose Oak Valley Middle School for other Educational Programming (Harbor/Adult Education, Rec and Edu, Adult Transition Programming ect)
- Closing Oak Valley as a Middle School and reducing our footprint from 3 middle schools to 2
- Close and move the administrative offices in order to utilize unused Square Footage at Milford High School
- Master plan and expand designs for our Middle School footprint at White Lake Middle School and a New Middle School at the Milford High School Campus
- Redraw Boundary Lines in order to create an East and West track feeder program that feeds to Milford and Lakeland High Schools

Our Board of Education will consider the best timelines for implementation. We have discussed an implementation timeline of the 2025-2026 School Year. In this way, we will be able to engage in the vast amount of preparations and planning, including redrawing boundary lines, beginning construction at White Lake Middle School and preparing for all the nuances associated with such moves. Our Board of Education will also consider a Zero Tax Rate Increase Bond proposal for May of 2024. We still have much work to do in the district from a Safety and Security perspective, along with continuing to create learning spaces that align with the changing economy and making the much needed infrastructure changes (roofs, bathrooms, chillers, HVAC).

Next steps include a December 4, 2023 board meeting where the recommendation will be shared with the board.

December 11, 2023 Town Hall--an opportunity to present the recommendation and answer questions related to the process and recommendation.

December 18, 2023 request for approval of final recommendation at the regular board of education meeting.

If you have questions that you think might be helpful for an FAQ document we are developing please send them to [Communications@hvs.org](mailto:Communications@hvs.org).

Stay Warm,

Paul

### Students in the Spotlight

Congratulations to Aubree Thornton and Ana Ramon-Sanchez for being recognized as our Students in the Spotlight this month.

Ana is a third grade student in Mrs. Peterman’s class. She is a very hardworking student who is ALWAYS ready to learn. Ana is kind and helpful to her peers. She regularly participates during lessons and always puts forth her best effort, in everything she does. She also regularly volunteers to help out adults.

Aubree is a first grader in Mrs. Zimmerman’s class and is also viewed as a leader and role

model among her first grade peers. She works hard to grow her understanding of all subjects and is helpful to her peers and to her teacher.

Both students exemplify the type of leadership attributes our staff and students recognize as meaningful and effective.

We celebrate our Students in the Spotlight each month because they make a difference at school and in our great community.



### Mrs. LaPratt Receives an HVEF Grant for our CATS

Congratulations to Mrs. LaPratt for receiving an HVEF grant that is designated for our CATS program. With her grant, she was able to get some more instruments for our CATS students. The desk bells are

color coded, not as loud as handbells, and the students will be able to just tap them to make a sound. She is looking forward to playing some songs by holding up colors that they will play. The steel tongue drum and ka-

limbas are instruments with such soothing sounds. Mrs. LaPratt is looking forward to seeing how our CATS students will react to them.



## Pick Up and Drop Off

We are very proud of the pick-up and drop-off processes we have in place at Kurtz. We work hard to make this daily routine safe and effective. There are Kurtz staff members assigned to ensuring our systems work effectively, while still making sure to use the time to connect with students and provide support when and if support is needed. We assure you that our system works and is most effective when visitors follow our plan. We are always focused on getting you in and out of the parking lot as quickly as possible. Visitors can help us make pick-up and drop-off times flow best by not parking on the curb during pick-up and drop-off times.

- Mind the 15 MPH speed limit on Kurtz Drive.
- Vehicles should be pulling all the way up and quickly getting child(ren) in and out of the car. Please do not get out and help children in or out of the vehicle.

- Utilize pick-up and drop-off procedures or park in the Kurtz staff parking if your child requires extra support.
- Visitors should never pass in the left lane of the loop because it is not safe for our students and could (and has) resulted in damage to vehicles, adding unnecessary stress on individuals. We feel strongly that passing really only has the potential to save a few seconds on your commute and strongly expect you not to do it.
- If you are planning to park, please park in a designate parking space. Kurtz staff members park in the back of the lot in order to make it as easy as possible for parents to find a parking space



in our small parking lot. Also, students should never be walking through the parking lot without an adult. Parents, please observe the posted speed limit sign on Kurtz Drive.

- We ask parents to respect our neighbors and never block driveways when you are picking up or dropping off. We have also been contacted by our neighbors at the Document Store to ask parents not to use their parking lot as a pick-up space. Parents are not to escort their child(ren) to

their classrooms for various health and safety reasons. Teachers meet their students outside each morning to start the day in a positive and personal manner. Your participation in this process is both expected and appreciated. Please feel free to share ideas and suggestions in writing with me, Mr. Chisik, at your earliest convenience.

Welcoming + Empowering + Achieving = GREATNESS!

## PTA Corner

November was a busy month. Breakfast with a Buddy was a packed event. We got to see lots of buddies and enjoy yummy treats. Also Family Movie Night at Milford Independent Cinema kicked off the holiday season.

December is well on its way. The PTA has lots of exciting events planned:

- December 7- McDonald's Takeover
- December 13- PTA meeting @9:30
- December 13-15 Holiday Shop
- December 19- Yoga, Cocoa and Crafts

**GREAT GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**  
**35% OFF**  
USE CODE **EXTRASAVINGS**  
Receive 15% discount on top of current 20% sale

Items shown: Kurtz Cougars sweatpants, Kurtz Grandpa hoodie, Kurtz Cougars t-shirt, Kurtz Women's t-shirt, Kurtz beanie, Kurtz tumbler.

**1ST PLACE Spiritwear | KURTZ**      **ORDER AT 1STPLACE.SALE/47749**

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## Back to the Basics for All Students

Our team has been working hard to support growth in all areas. We are always focused on identifying gap areas and individualizing instruction to support our students.

Parents are encouraged to focus on the grade appropriate basic skills whenever possible. It is always a great idea to designate time and energy into incorporating creative ways to focus on basic skills in math, reading and writing. The time you spend playing card games, board games, singing songs, practicing adding and subtracting or multiplication tables are all great ways to engage students. These activities will help them improve their competence in meaning-


ful ways.

If students aren't able to automatically use basic math skills like math facts, then math computations will become slower. Examples like making sure students can add quickly and without supports (like fingers or charts) will help them to complete more quickly multiplication or division problems in upper elementary grades. Being fluent in their multiplication facts will also help them to traverse many algorithms in those upper elementary grades and beyond.

Keeping a writing journal and encouraging kids to write and illustrate their own comic books, stories or graphic novels can all be great ways to help students

develop their literacy skills. Such a sense of pride and self confidence develops when youngsters share their stories at home when interest is shown and praise is given. Our students benefit so much when we work together as a team. As always, thank you for your support.





**HELPING YOUR SCHOOL**  
**supercharge**  
**EDUCATION**

**KURTZ**  
**ELEMENTARY**  
**School Fundraiser**  
**Thursday, December 7th**  
**5 p.m.— 7 p.m.**

18% of sales\*\* generated from 5 p.m.—7 p.m. Will be donated to **Kurtz Elementary School.**

\*\*inclusive of drive thru and mobile app sales. Not inclusive of delivery sales.

**Join us at:**  
**McDonald's®**  
**120 S. MILFORD RD.**  
**MILFORD**

*Serving up dinner with a side of fundraising!!*

COMING SOON!

THE  
KURTZ  
HOLIDAY  
SHOP

December 13th & 14th

