

November 9, 2020

The month of November always brings so many exciting things to celebrate in the Kiel Area School District and we remain so proud of our students and staff for what they have been able to accomplish this year.

The fact that our students remain in school and continue to be able to compete in co-curricular activities is a major accomplishment during these times and our entire staff deserves a huge “pat on the back” for going above and beyond to make sure that students continue to receive the best education possible. All of our families have the choice to send their children to our “brick and mortar” school setting, our K-12 eSchool, or an individual option for those that have special needs or situations. Please say “THANK YOU” to a staff member today; our “opening of schools” plan continues to work as well as possible because of them!

We MUST continue to support our staff throughout these times with the technology and resources they need to continue to provide our students with a great education. A huge thank you to all of the community members that have offered to substitute teach this year to ensure our schools remain open; we could not do it without you!

On November 11th our students and staff will do everything that we can to honor Veterans in our community. We have a number of presentations that will be recorded and shared; typically we bring in as many Veterans as possible and host an “honoring” celebration as well as a meal. This year, we are not able to do that, but we will still do what we can to show thanks for their sacrifices. Also, please don’t forget to thank our brave men and women that work at our police and fire departments; they are always there for us when we need them and keep us safe!

Our National Honor Society will once again induct new members in November. Those that are being inducted should be commended for their life long commitment to their learning. Speaking of accomplishments, our athletic and co-curricular teams continue to find success on the field and pitch; soccer, football, girls swim and dive team, girls tennis, volleyball and boys and girls cross country all found success this fall. Our cross country boys team in particular brought

home a silver trophy as they took 2nd place at the state cross country meet at the end of October; the send off and welcome home parades in and out of town were so much fun!

We are looking forward to our winter sports beginning soon, as well as continuing to watch our robotics, forensics and math club compete, as well as the high school musical.

Our new eSchool called the “Between the Lakes Academy” that was opened this fall continues to thrive and is a great option for those students that prefer online learning. The eSchool has 30 part time teachers as well as many support staff that help educate over 300 students from around the state; thank you to all of those involved that have made this part of our strategic plan come to life!

At our most recent school board meeting, the “annual meeting,” our community was presented with a balanced school district budget and our board members received a tour of our sparkling new Performing Arts Center that is set to open in March. The building is enclosed and the inside work continues as we move through the winter months; it is impressive to say the least (community tours to come)!

Also at our board meeting, each of our schools and every one of our departments (custodial, co-curricular, business office, food service, etc.) presented their continual improvement goals that track success data over time; the school board will continue to hear updates on these goals as the year progresses and should guarantee improvement and success in all areas that support our learning.

On November 6th, our staff received personalized professional development. During this time, staff members had the chance to choose from a variety of sessions that were created based on our strategic plan as well as the needs of our staff; we believe in a personalized education for our students, so why not personalize the development opportunities for our staff?! The day was successful!

I know that I could go on and on, but in closing I want to continue to thank the community for getting behind us and supporting our students and staff. Let's keep working together and as we do, our achievements and accomplishments will continue to soar, with the ending goal of becoming a premier school district and community where all want to attend and live!