

February 8, 2021

The success that a school district finds on the athletic field, on a court, on stage and in the classrooms (virtual and regular), as well as building a successful community, does not happen overnight.

The youth programs that we have in our school district are second to none; the time, energy and commitment that so many adults in our area put into our youngest students is exceptional. The Kiel Area Basketball Association, Kiel Area Youth Theater, Kiel Area Youth Soccer Clubs, Youth Football and Alumni Association, Kiel Area Youth Wrestling, Kiel Area Youth Baseball, Cheer Programs, Swim Clubs, Robotics Club, and many others all play into our continued success. We should continue to say “thank you” to those that give of their time for our children!

Academic success, especially during this time, is dependent on the dedication and commitment of a school district staff, parents, the community and students. Without all of these people working together to support one another and adjust as needed, academic success would not be possible. We should continue to say “thank you” to those that have dedicated so much to the success of our children.

Finding success in a community is dependent on the collaboration that takes place between a wide variety of organizations. Our police and fire departments continue to keep us safe; our city government continues to partner with businesses, organizations and the school district to promote growth; our civic organizations and business partners continue to work hard to provide resources for those that need them. We should continue to say “thank you” to those that give of their time to promote community wide success.

Our K-12 eSchool (Between the Lakes Academy) continues to serve hundreds of students from around the state. We have also partnered with a number of school districts, which allows students from these districts to enroll in our eSchool, yet remain a student in their home district. This fully accredited virtual school has been a resounding success because of the 30+ teachers and other staff members that are serving the students enrolled in it (standing ovation). The community also deserves a standing ovation for approving the referendum question a few years back that allowed us to enhance our programming with opportunities like this. If you would like more information on our virtual school, please reach out to Katrina Pionek, our lead person, at kpionek@kiel.k12.wi.us.

As a community, we need to continue to celebrate our students. We will continue to live stream nearly all of our events to showcase our students and their accomplishments. If you would like to receive these live stream links, along with other important school district information, please email me at bebert@kiel.k12.wi.us and I will make sure you are included.

The vision/strategic plan (built by the community) for our district continues to move forward and includes expanding trades offerings for our students, enhancing partnerships with our local businesses, continuing with a personalized approach for our students and their learning, which includes offering more high level/college credit course offerings, as well as making sure that we continue to take a closer look at the mental health needs of all and are accepting of all. With that said, teams of staff and community members, businesses, etc. will continue to work to establish the action steps needed to make these goals a reality. The goal: build a school district where ALL students can choose their path and be heavily supported down that path by our staff, community and business partners.

If you have an interest in being a part of one of these goals and can offer a certain expertise, please reach out to me.

During the middle of February, we are excited to invite our parents into our buildings (or virtual) for parent, student, teacher conferences. All parents are encouraged to attend the conferences; we must build a triangle of success around our children that includes the school community, parents and students; if all three of these supports are in place, our community and our children have a greater chance of finding success!

On March 14th, the school district will be offering socially distanced community tours of our new Performing Arts Center; the project is expected to be nearly completed by that time. Tours begin at 1 pm and all are invited to attend. At 2 pm that day, we will pick the "Cash for Concerts" raffle winners. This cash raffle just began last week and has been put together to raise funds to upgrade some of the equipment for our new Performing Arts Center.

Speaking of success, we recently saw the first semester come to an end in our school district. Many students found academic success and made the respective honor rolls in their buildings; we are so proud of their accomplishments. Whether a student learns a new way to solve a math problem, figures out a solution to a complex scientific experiment, builds a cabinet from scratch, welds two pieces of metal together, sings a new song, wins a math, spelling or robotics competition or simply learns how to read for the first time, the "light bulbs" continue to go on here in the Kiel Area School District.

As you can see, we will do whatever it takes to find success, but we need everyone's help to get where we want to go. No matter who you are, you too can play a role in the success of our students and our community.