



KENESAW PUBLIC SCHOOL

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE VI



# THE BLUE DEVIL BUGLE

## February 2021

### Special points of interest

- 2/1 Boys TVC Basketball
- 2/2 Girls TVC Basketball, Elem Quiz Bowl
- 2/3 Parent Teacher Conferences, HS Quiz Bowl
- 2/4 Boys TVC Basketball (A) Hastings, JH Quiz Bowl
- 2/5 Girls TVC Basketball (A) Hastings
- 2/6 Speech (A) Aurora, TVC G/B Basketball (A) Hastings
- 2/9 G/B Basketball (A) Red Cloud
- 2/11 JH Basketball (A) Gibbon

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## Christmas at Kenesaw

By Liam Parker

The FBLA and FFA Chapters wanted to bring some joy this past Christmas to the students of Kenesaw Public Schools. Planning for the endeavor began in late October as Presidents Liam Parker (FBLA) and Grace Eckhardt (FFA) called on the local businesses to donate to help cover the cost of the decorations. The Chapters would like to thank all the local businesses for their generous donations of over \$800. Also, the organizations asked for donations of decorations from the community and it did not disappoint. There were over 15 trees donated, thousands of lights, and a surplus of other decorations.



The donations they could not find room for or be utilized were donated to Goodwill in Hastings. The decorating caught the attention of the Hastings Tribune; thus they came to the school to take pictures and interview Grace and Liam about the decorations. The Presidents of FBLA and FFA would like to thank all who donated to the cause, as well as a special thank you to the School and Administration for the support. Thank you to the members of the FBLA and FFA. Hopefully this new tradition will be an enjoyment for all for years to come.



## **Kenesaw Teachers and Staff Rising Up Doing What it Takes to Keep Learning at the Forefront**

Kenesaw Public Schools is in the first year of a five-year continuous school improvement cycle. One of the first things that schools do is review the district vision, mission, and beliefs. With the support of community and other stakeholders, our teachers and staff identified a powerful vision - **INSPIRE EXCELLENCE**. These two words are at the essence of what we do with students on a daily basis. Teachers and staff work to “**INSPIRE**” students to be their very best and reach their full potential. We also aim for every student to reach a level of “**EXCELLENCE**” commensurate with their abilities and talents. What is excellent for one student may look quite different for another. Excellence also comes in many different forms - academic, citizenship, athletics/activities, kindness/respect, health, and social/emotional stability, to name a few. It is the job of administration and teachers to support student growth and achievement in all of these facets of education.

While I have always been proud of our teachers and staff members, I must say that I have been extremely impressed with their efforts to continue to provide for high levels of teaching and learning for our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. They hit the road running in March of 2020 by putting in countless hours learning how to teach remotely and planning lessons for this style of delivery. Unlike many other school districts across the state of Nebraska, Kenesaw Public Schools chose to continue to provide students with new instruction on national and state content standards through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. While many schools provided “enrichment” opportunities on previously taught content, KPS continued to move forward with new learning. By doing so, we felt that we would lessen the degree of the achievement gap that would be created and allow our students to be more prepared entering a new grade level during 2020-2021 school year. While this decision benefited our students, it did not happen without an increased workload for our teachers and staff. They did a tremendous job during a very difficult and unprecedented time. It is important for this to be noted and celebrated by our school district and our community.

During the 2020-2021 school year, we have been fortunate to provide in-person instruction for our students and to continue to move forward with teaching national and state content standards. We have had an excellent first semester. Our teachers continue to work through the challenges of teaching during a pandemic while meeting the learning needs of our students. They have been up to this task and are performing extraordinarily well. Likewise, our staff continues to meet the challenges they have been presented. Our food service staff have had to make menu changes, alter how students are served food, and increased sanitation/disinfection protocols. We are blessed with an outstanding group of ladies that have taken this responsibility seriously. The custodial staff has also had to up their game. They are now doing more cleaning and sanitizing than ever before and have assumed other job duties to help keep school in session. They continue to provide a clean and safe environment that is conducive for student learning. Our bus drivers are also working to meet the increased demands that have been placed on them due to the virus. I am thankful for the efforts of all of these district employees and what they have contributed to **KEEP LEARNING AT THE FOREFRONT** for Kenesaw students. We are blessed with an outstanding group of educators and support staff that care about kids and have a desire to positively impact their lives. I appreciate the many sacrifices that they have made and the many they will make in the near future to **INSPIRE EXCELLENCE** for every Kenesaw Public School student. Please take a moment to personally thank them for their service, send an email of confidence, or post your gratitude on social media. They deserve it!

Kenesaw Kindness - Blue Devil GRIT,

Rick Masters,  
Superintendent

# Senior Spotlights

## Liam Parker

Liam Parker, son of Brad and Amy Parker, is keeping busy this year in FBLA, FFA, SkillsUSA, Striv Announcing, Kenesaw Student Leaders, running clock, and films for football. His college plans are to go to Southeast Technical College and major in Cardiac Sonography. His advice for the underclassmen is "Listen to the words of Mrs. Bonnie Engelhardt." The things he will miss most are the people, community, school, and sense of family. Ms. Molly Engelhardt's Finance Class helped prepare him for the future. His favorite memory from high school was the surprise of a "normal" Homecoming and "being on court with my best friend."



"It'll buff out." - Unknown



## Trevor Kuehn

Trevor Kuehn, son of Kevin and Leah Kuehn, is currently in Wrestling and Cross Country. His plans for the future are to go to Central Community College and major in Heating and Air Conditioning and Construction. His advice for the underclassmen is to keep up on homework. The thing he will miss is sports. Sports and Shop Class has helped prepare him for the future. His favorite memory from high school is when Sean kicked out the school van window because of a sweat bee.

"Success is the peace of mind knowing that you're giving your all." - Unknown

## Kaylee Steer

Kaylee Steer, daughter of Jeff and Lindsay Higel and John and Jenny Steer, participates in Volleyball, Basketball, FBLA, FFA, SkillsUSA, Dance, K-Club, Kenesaw Student Leaders, and LYF. Her plans for the future are to study elementary education at Wayne State College with a K-12 SPED Generalist Field Endorsement. Her advice for the underclassmen is get your work done on time, but don't stress too much. Have fun! The thing she will miss is being with familiar faces, playing sports, and dance squad. All of Mrs. Bonnie Engelhardt's classes and Ms. Molly Engelhardt's Finance Class has helped prepare her for the future. Kaylee's favorite memory from high school is watching the boys play in the State Basketball Tournament Freshman year.



"Chase your dreams, but always know the road that will lead you home again." -Tim McGraw

## Success and Achievement



In spite of the obstacles and challenges of beginning school in person in the fall, the students and staff pulled together and worked diligently to ensure the semester was successful.

Collectively, the 7-12 staff worked to implement a new intervention system to ensure every student was successful in all classes. After one semester of this system, we are proud to report we had a 100% passing rate for EVERY student's semester grade; meaning all 115 students in the junior high-high school received credit for every class.

Along with those high school success stories, we saw many students on the elementary level show great growth with their reading abilities. We had 118 elementary students take our fall Acadience Reading assessment. Those, 106 students showed great improvement and growth towards achieving benchmarks. The 6th grade class led the way with 100% reading at or above the benchmark requirements for the reading assessment.

Here are a few things happening in school now:

Elementary students have spent the first half of the year developing their math skills through the Bridges math curriculum resource. Kenesaw adopted the series this year as our main resource for math instruction. We are seeing a shift of thinking in our students and are anxious to see the long-term results as teachers and students continue to implement new strategies for learning and applying math skills.

Fourth grade is working with weaving and developing an understanding to create art after looking at and thinking about art styles and ideas. They started by learning how to make a paper loom and perform a basic weave, which led into learning different patterns and other methods for weaving. They are also learning about the use of weaving and where it originated from.

The Plant Science class had several successful lettuce harvests from the TowerGarden in the first semester. They are set to replant next week. The 7th Grade Science class just finished setting up their experiments related to a plant's use of matter and energy to grow. The Animal Science class completed their Meats Unit last semester that ended with meat cooking labs. The Freshmen Science class is studying electromagnetism by designing and building levitation devices using magnets.

The amount of effort our teachers and students have put into this year has not gone unnoticed. I am excited to see how the second half of the year goes for Kenesaw.

Joe Wiechman  
Elementary Principal



## TVC Conference Results

### 3 Conference Champions:

Nick Kuehn

Trevor Kuehn

Sean Duffy

### Other place winners:

Brayden Coutts- 4th

Brock Fletcher- 3rd

Silas Purdy- 2nd

Ryder Prescott- 4th

Will Belz- 5th

Levi Schroeder- 3rd

Blue Sharp- 3rd

## High School Wrestling

By Tate Uden

The Kenesaw Wrestling team has had a very successful season. The head coach, Trey Schlender, has been preparing these young athletes for any situation on the mat. "We have now entered "Peak Season." Mr. Schlender describes "Peak Season" as the end of the season. They have to work hard at this time. They have to focus on keeping the same weight. They have to perfect their flaws in order to continue in the "Peak Season." This is the end of the season. Nick Kuehn's record is 24-2. The Kenesaw Wrestling Team has a lot of faith in the end of their season and seek to prove to everyone that they are some of the hardest working athletes in the Conference.

## High School Girls Basketball

By Chloe Uden

The girls' basketball team, with a record of 7-7, is working every day to prepare for their games and the Twin Valley Conference in about two weeks. The Lady Blue Devils are the 5th Seed and play Franklin. From the beginning of the season, the Lady Blue Devils have grown and continue to grow with every game. Their fire and aggression pursue with each opponent. The gym facility is now being allowed to hold more fans so if you would like to come support the Blue Devils, make sure to buy a ticket from the admissions table at the entrance! As always, the games are Strived, and the links to watch the games should be found on the school's Facebook page.

<https://striv.tv/channel/kenesaw/>



## High School Boys Basketball

By Tyson Denkert



The boys' basketball team has had a great year so far. They are currently 10-3, with losses to Blue Hill(45-34), Doniphan-Trumbull (64-32), and Elm Creek(44-31). The boys are currently approaching the TVC Tournament, and are anxious to see what they can accomplish. Last year they earned 3rd place, but this year they are shooting for TVC Champions. The Blue Devils are 3rd seed and play Lawrence-Nelson in the first round of TVC.

The season has been a lot different this year with all of the Covid regulations. The boys are excited now that more fans can come and support them at home games.

# Student of the Month



Senior Liam Parker possesses many admirable qualities which makes him an excellent Kenesaw Public Schools representative of Student of the Month, or as students and staff call him, the “Mayor.”

If you drove by the school during the month of December, you would not have missed all of the Christmas decorations. If you stepped into the school, it was like being in Santa’s Workshop. This has been the dream of Liam’s since he was a young student at Kenesaw Elementary. This year he was able to fulfill the dream of decorating the school.

Liam took the initiative by getting a group of students to not only decorate but also to help fundraise. He spent countless hours after school decorating and organizing. Liam thought with everything going on in the world, the students and staff needed this extra bit of cheer.

Liam Parker has so much pride in this school and is always wanting others to see what he sees. He is one whom teachers can always count on to step in to run the game clock for basketball games, film for Striv, volunteer in the concession stand, among many other things that go unnoticed.

All of this, plus the principles by which he lives, makes Liam a truly deserving Blue Devil of the Month.

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## Beef to School

Kenesaw School has implemented a Beef to School Program. The school will be utilizing roast and hamburger. We will have raffles for the steaks at volleyball and basketball games to help raise funds to pay for the processing. We are lucky to have Juniata Feed Yard help us by donating the first beef. We are looking for individuals that could feed our steer occasionally as we have people that could donate a 600 to 800 lb critter. Anyone wishing to make a cash donation can do so at Adams County Bank-care of Beef to School Fund. For questions about the program, you may contact the school or call Troy Legg at 308-991-3215. We are excited about being able to offer local beef to our students with the support of our community.

# KIDS' CORNER

1. Who is Cupid?
2. What is your favorite thing about Valentine's Day?
3. What is your favorite color?
4. Whom are you going to give a Valentine?
5. If you had a monster for a pet, what would you name it?



Payton Adams

1. I think he is fake
2. Making Valentine's boxes
3. Blue
4. My sister
5. Bob

Third Grade



Ava Kirstine

1. Santa's reindeer
2. I like painting
3. Purple
4. My grandma
5. Cupcake

Preschool



Summer Hagemeyer

1. He is fake
2. Getting together with family and sharing kindness
3. Red
4. My baby brother
5. Buddy

Fourth Grade



Aryn Schade

1. A fake character
2. Giving hearts to my mom
3. Blue
4. My mom and dad
5. I don't know

Kindergarten



Kylan Parker

1. He shoots love arrows at people
2. Giving and receiving stuff
3. Blue
4. Halle Uden
5. Theodore

Fifth Grade



Fletcher Kennedy

1. A fake person
2. You get to share love
3. Red and blue
4. My dog
5. Potato

First Grade



Morgen Kauk

1. The Valentine person and he makes people fall in love
2. Giving candy and stuff
3. Blue
4. No one
5. Fuzzy

Sixth Grade



Lexi Coutts

1. I think he is fake
2. Giving people cards
3. Pink
4. Madison, my friend
5. Lu Lu

Second Grade



Liam Parker

1. Naked baby that makes people fall in love
2. It's 3 days after my birthday
3. Blue
4. My girlfriend
5. Kylan

High School



Mission Statement:  
"In partnership with stakeholders we will develop  
challenging academics, encourage positive  
citizenship, and promote lifelong learning."

**Kenesaw Public School**



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