

KWMS Panther Pride

February 28, 2025

Message from the Principal

I hope this message finds you well. I want to take a moment to stress the importance of the upcoming **Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR)** and the critical role that attendance plays in ensuring student success.

Each spring, students across Illinois participate in **federally required state assessments** to help us understand their academic growth and performance compared to their peers statewide. The **IAR**, which measures student achievement in **English Language Arts and Math**, is a key tool in identifying strengths and areas for improvement. The results also help the state provide additional support and resources to schools that need them most.



At Kenyon Woods, our **IAR testing dates** are scheduled for:

📅 **March 12th, 13th, and 14th**

Students will complete **three math units and two English Language Arts units** over multiple days. The test format remains the same as in previous years, ensuring that our students are familiar with the structure and expectations.

I cannot stress enough the importance of **students being present on these testing days**. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is **on time, well-rested, and ready to do their best**. In addition to helping us measure student progress, **IAR results are also used for placement in math and English courses, as well as high school course recommendations**. Strong performance on these assessments can open doors to advanced coursework and additional academic opportunities.

If you have any questions about the IAR, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or contact the **Assessment and Accountability Department** through **Let's Talk** or by phone. Your partnership is invaluable in supporting your child's academic success.

Thank you for your continued support!

Thank you Everyone!
Lisa Olsem ~ Principal

WE ARE KENYON WOODS AND WE DREAM BIG

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also DREAM; not only plan, but also
BELIEVE!
~ Anatole France



WAY TO GO PANTHERS!

Congratulations to all the students who performed this past Saturday at the U-46 Solo & Ensemble Festival at Larkin High School. Special shout-out to the following students whose ensemble performances earned "Best of Day" in their room:

Sophia Bruno and Emily Dlugi (7th Grade Clarinet Duet)
Christina Aina and Violet McLain (7th/8th Grade Clarinet Duet)

Graham Altergott, Bennett Ewald, Logan Gnutek, Ben Goldman, Vinnie Tomasheski and Jadon Zagel (8th Grade Mixed Wind Ensemble)

Maddie Gustafson & Riley Warfel (8th Grade Duet)

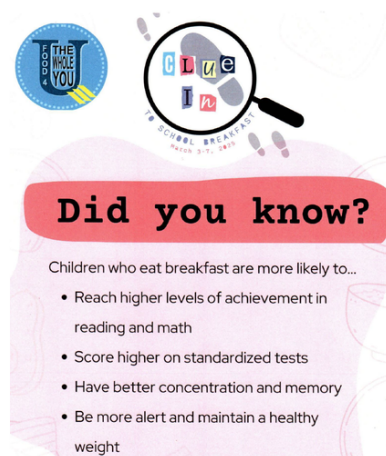
Elijah Guercio (7th Grade Viola Solo)

Aishani Patel (7th Grade Violin Solo)

GET CLUED IN TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST! 🕵️

National School Breakfast Week is March 3-7th! We will be serving a hot breakfast option each day along with the menued items! Be sure to visit the sample table to try new breakfast items! Win a prize for finding the hidden pictures of food items in the commons!

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day!



BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Informational meeting was held on 2/20/2025 at 8:30 a.m. in room C141

All Paperwork including a copy of a current Physical or Sports Physical due to the coaches by Tuesday, March 4th

7th grade Coach- Coach Cesaroni- Located in the Gym

8th grade Coach- Coach Greguras- Located in room C141



Tryout dates: Thursday, March 6th and Friday, March 7th- Must have all paperwork submitted by March 4th and must attend both tryout dates.

Doors will open for tryouts at 7:00 a.m. in the main gym- enter through door #14 (located by the gym)

FROM THE CREATIVE MIND OF OUR PANTHERS

Do you remember when the Art 3 students finished their self-portraits? Well, recently, they challenged their imaginations and completed Abstract Self-Portraits! They came up with some very creative versions of themselves using oil pastels. Here is the Art 3 group photo of the results, along with the artists themselves:

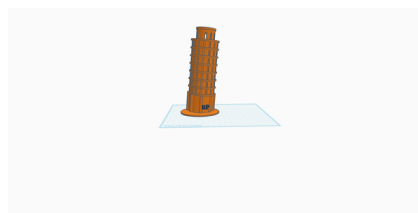
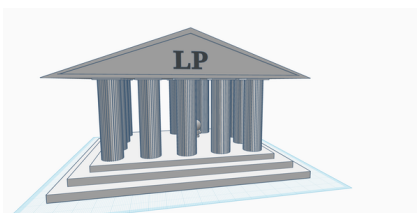
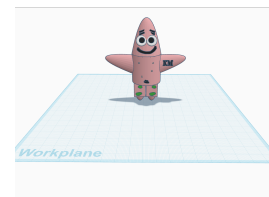


PICTURES OF THE WEEK

Valentine Treats at Cooking Camp



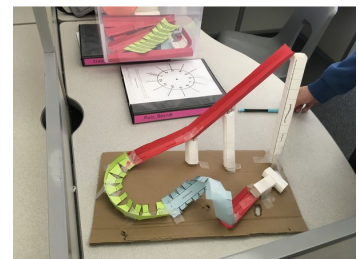
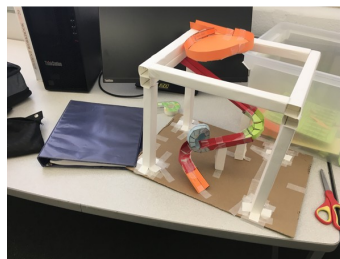
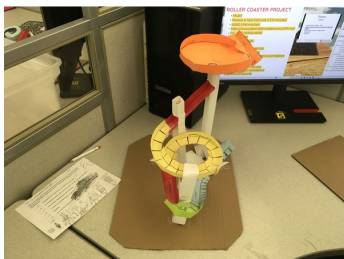
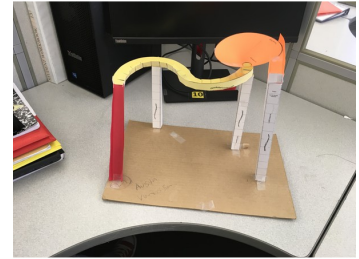
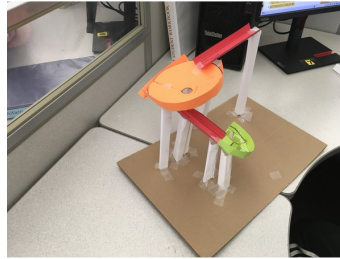
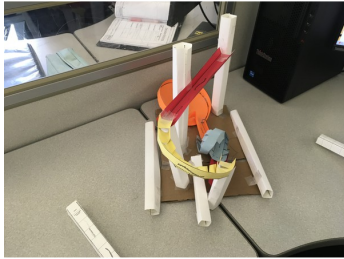
Students in Interactive Media had to use their 3D modeling skills to recreate something famous. They had to also incorporate their name or initials into the design.



Students in Introduction to Computers are wrapping up their Photo Editing unit. In the projects below, students had to "Create a Monster" by combining parts and pieces of five different images. Students selected tools used in previous assignments to complete the task. So many creative projects!



Paper roller coaster pictures from Design & Engineering.



The Importance of Developing Reasoning Skills in Learning

By: Mrs. Cynthia Febles

In today's fast-paced and ever-changing world, the ability to think critically and reason logically is more essential than ever. As parents, fostering strong reasoning skills in your children is one of the best ways to set them up for success in academics and beyond. Developing these skills not only enhances problem-solving abilities but also prepares children for real-world challenges.

Why are reasoning skills so important? Reasoning skills enable children to analyze information, draw logical conclusions, and make informed decisions. These abilities play a critical role in subjects like mathematics, science, reading comprehension, and even social interactions. When children learn how to think critically, they become more independent learners, capable of evaluating different perspectives and solving problems effectively.

Moreover, strong reasoning skills contribute to:

- **Better Academic Performance:** Students who develop reasoning skills can grasp complex concepts more easily and apply their knowledge across various subjects.
- **Improved Decision-Making:** Whether choosing friends, resolving conflicts, or planning future goals, reasoning skills help children make sound choices.
- **Enhanced Communication:** The ability to construct logical arguments and express thoughts clearly is a valuable asset in discussions and debates.
- **Increased Confidence:** When children can reason through problems, they become more confident in their abilities and less afraid of making mistakes.

In what ways can adults at home assist with to develop reasoning skills at home

1. Encourage Curiosity and Questions

Children are naturally inquisitive, and their questions provide a great opportunity to nurture reasoning. Instead of simply giving answers, ask them, "What do you think?" or "Why do you think that happens?" This encourages them to analyze situations and think critically.

2. Promote Problem-Solving Activities

Engage children in puzzles, brain teasers, and logic games that require them to strategize and think critically. Board games like chess or Sudoku can significantly boost logical thinking. Set up a table or a space for the family to put a 1000-piece puzzle over a period of time and discuss strategies to solve the puzzle together.

3. Support Decision-Making

Give your child opportunities to make choices and explain their reasoning. Whether selecting an outfit for the day or deciding how to spend their allowance, guiding them through the decision-making process fosters analytical thinking.

4. Discuss Real-World Situations

Encourage children to think through current events, ethical dilemmas, or family discussions. Ask open-ended questions like, "What would you do in this situation?" or "What are the possible consequences of this choice?"

5. Encourage Reading and Storytelling

Reading books that involve mystery, problem-solving, or moral dilemmas helps children develop inferential thinking. Asking questions like, "Why do you think the character did that?" promotes deeper analysis. The same can be done with movie watching. Discuss the movie and encourage analysis.

6. Model Logical Thinking

Children learn by example, so demonstrate how to reason through challenges. Talk through your decision-making process aloud, showing them how to weigh pros and cons logically.

Developing reasoning skills is a vital aspect of your child's education and future success. By fostering critical thinking at home, you empower them with the tools needed to navigate the complexities of learning and life. Encouraging curiosity, engaging in problem-solving activities, and modeling logical thinking will help your child become a confident and independent thinker, ready to face any challenge with a clear and reasoned approach.

Math Help

IS AN EXTRA PLACE TO GET MATH SUPPORT WITH A TEACHER AND A VOLUNTARY COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS THAT WANT HELP WITH MATH OR ARE WORKING ON A RETAKE. EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO BRING WORK TO DO, REMAIN ON TASK, BE PATIENT WITH THE PROCESS, TRY THEIR HARDEST, AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

- Monday 8:00 to 8:50 AM-- meet in C150
- Tuesday 3:30 to 4:50 -- meet in the Gym then we'll go to A104
- Wednesday 3:30 to 4:50--meet in F204
- Thursday 8:00 to 8:50 AM-- meet in A108
- Thursday 3:30 to 4:50-- meet in F207
- **No pass necessary, just show up!**

DURING LUNCH

- Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Grab a laminated pass from front of the stage and get your lunch first in line
- When called, follow the math teacher with your lunch and supplies



ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!

Last chance to order your yearbook before the price goes up!
Don't miss out!

[ORDER HERE](#)

SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES

As part of our commitment to ensuring a safe learning environment, Kenyon Woods will be conducting random, non-invasive searches throughout the school year in accordance with board policy and law. These searches are a proactive step towards maintaining safety and fostering an environment where learning can thrive without disruptions. They will be carried out by trained school personnel, in a manner that respects the privacy of all students. We assure you that these measures are standard safety procedures and not in response to any specific incident or concern. If a student refuses to participate in the random search, the school administration will follow the necessary steps in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Should you have any questions, please contact the school's main office.

2024-2025

**8TH GRADE TRIP
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**MAY 19TH [AT] MAIN EVENT
MEASURED JANUARY 6-MAY 16**

**MUST BE PASSING 5 OUT
OF 7 CLASSES**

NO MORE THAN 1 ISI

**NO OUT OF SCHOOL
SUSPENSIONS**

**NO MORE THAN 3 REFERRALS AND
PHONE VIOLATIONS**

**NO LOSS OF PRIVILEGE STATUS DURING
THE DURATION OF 2ND SEMESTER**

SOUTH ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL

Essentials Exchange

Free Clothing Fridays

**Event
dates:**

1/24
2/21
3/21
4/25
5/16



**3:30
to
6:30
PM**

**Please park in the back of the school by the
mobile units (near tennis courts)**

760 East Main Street; South Elgin, IL 60177
Questions: please email genevievehebek@u-46.org

LINK TO LUNCH MENU

IMPORTANT DATES

2/28/25 - No School - Institute Day
3/5/25 - Orchestra Concert - 6:30 pm @ SEHS
3/11/25 - Band Concert - 6:30 pm @ SEHS
3/12 - 3/14 - IAR Testing
3/13 - 3/14 - Play Performance
3/17/25 - Girls Soccer vs Ellis - Home
3/19/25 - Boys Volleyball vs Kimball - Home
3/21/25 - Spring Fling Dance - 6 pm
3/22/25 - MS Band Festival @ SEHS
3/24/25 - Boys Volleyball vs Larson - Home
3/26/25 - Girls Soccer vs Abbott - Home
3/29 - 4/6 - Spring Break
5/9/25 - 8th Grade Dance - 6 pm

5/19/25 - 8th Grade Fieldtrip - Main Event
5/22/25 - 8th Grade Recognition - 6 pm @ SEHS

Link to all 2024/25 KWMS Panther Newsletters



Kenyon Woods Middle School

Website: <https://www.u-46.org/KenyonWoods>

Location: 1515 Raymond Street, South Elgin, IL, USA

Phone: 847-289-6685

Fax: 847-488-1430

Attendance line: 847-289-6685 Ext: 6654



Lisa Olsem

Lisa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters