

Panther Paws - August 2023

Back to School Edition

Message from the Principal

As Principal of KWMS, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to school and back to our building! We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways filled with energy and enthusiasm for learning. It is our mission to help every child feel welcomed, connected and part of the Kenyon Woods MS family. Additionally, we strive to challenge each student to grow in his or her academic abilities and to be high school ready by the end of their 2 years with us. At KWMS, we have great teachers who spend hours planning and creating classroom activities to engage our students in learning. Our teachers utilize research-based best practices and analyze data to determine current skill levels and to set goals for growth and improvement. We believe that all students should leave our school prepared for the demands of high school and beyond.



Research shows that parent involvement can make a difference in a child's education. It is a fact that when parents take an active role in their children's education, they perform higher academically and behaviorally. I would like to personally invite you to take an active role in your child's education at KWMS this school year. Through our outstanding PTO, we have numerous opportunities for parents to get involved. Watch my Friday newsletter for information on our first meeting.

I am honored to serve as the principal of Kenyon Woods MS. It is truly a privilege to be part of a community where parents, teachers, and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at LisaOlsem@u-46.org or 847-289-6685 x2022.

Thank You

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

MEET THE NEW FACES AT KENYON WOODS

Matt Erlenbaugh - Assistant Principal
Chiara Lagioia - Math
Tarra McIntosh - SPED
Carrie Diehl - SPED
Joanne Von Oppen - SPED
Grace Miller - Art
Meredith Pompa - PARA
Vicki Hodges - PARA
Anthony Gallo - PE
Karen Rodriguez - PE



KENYON WOODS KICK OFF!

WHEN: **Thursday, August 3rd**

TIME: Building will be open from 1 pm - 6 pm that day for all students

We are opening our doors from 1 pm - 6 pm for all students to stop by to pick up their schedule, walk to their classes, and try their hands at opening their lockers. Students are welcome to drop off their supplies and decorate the inside of their lockers while at school.

Cesaroni's Real Pit BBQ will be serving lunch starting at 1 pm. Everyone is invited to participate in our **free Hot Dog lunch give away** while supplies last. (one per person please) In addition, the Kona Ice Truck and Nothing But Bundt Cakes will be on hand selling goodies for all. Finally, our AVID students will be offering you a free car wash in our bus lanes. They are simply looking for donations to help support their program!

If you are unable to make this fun date, school will be open on the following days and times for your student to come visit Kenyon Woods. Please note, additional support will not be available during these times but your students are welcome to walk their schedules and drop off their supplies in their lockers during these times.

August 8th from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

August 10th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

DON'T MISS OUT ON KWMS SPIRIT WEAR!



Find all of your Kenyon Woods Panthers spirit wear and school spirit apparel for [youth](#), [women](#), and [men](#), all in one place with 1st Place Spiritwear. From [t-shirts](#), to [hoodies](#), to [face masks](#), we have everything you need to represent your school both on and off-campus this school year. Our Kenyon Woods apparel shop includes a variety of more than 150 different clothing options to

choose from, with selections for current students, future students, parents, [teachers](#), alumni, and fans, with new items being added regularly. **Everything ships directly to you!** Join our VIP Club by providing your email below to save 10% on your first Kenyon Woods Panthers apparel order.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ALL OUR AWESOME DESIGNS!](#)



ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Students are expected to arrive promptly to school each and every day. Students are expected to wear their ID upon entering school property. The earliest students may be dropped off at school is **8:30 am** unless they are meeting with a teacher.

Students arriving to school on time:

- Student arriving by bus will enter through door # 20 and report to the cafeteria until the first bell rings at 8:50.
- Students being dropped off will also enter through door # 20 and report to the cafeteria until the first bell rings at 8:50.

Students arriving late to school:

Students will enter through the main entrance (door 1). They will need to show their ID in order to enter the building or will need to purchase a new ID.

Only visitors to school will be allowed to enter through the main entrance (door 1) before 8:50 am. Please see our map for drop off and pick up traffic patterns.

[CLICK HERE FOR MAPS SHOWING THE DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES](#)

ATTENDANCE

Daily attendance is a huge key to a successful school year! It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to call the attendance office within 24 hours of any absence and verify the reason for the absence.

Please call 847-289-6685 x6654 to report an absence.



SAVE THE DATE! KWMS BACK TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM NIGHT

Back to School Curriculum Night on Tuesday, August 29th from 5:45 to 8:00 pm. We are so excited to be able to offer you this in person opportunity to experience your student's daily schedule, meet their teachers, and learn about the different curriculums and expectations for each subject. More information will be shared as we get closer to the date.

CELL PHONES SHOULD BE AWAY FOR THE DAY!

All middle schools in the district will be following the district guidelines of "AWAY FOR THE DAY" for cell phone usage. Students will not be allowed to use their cell phones during the school day, including during lunch, in the locker room or bathrooms. These district-wide middle school guidelines support classroom learning and improved culture and climate efforts for all middle school students in order to minimize distractions and help teachers create and manage a classroom and school environment conducive to learning, discussion and collaboration. It also helps protect students against bullying and/or inappropriate social media use during school hours, which are often exacerbated by cell phone access.



Consistent with our secondary cell phone guidelines overall, students are expected to put their silenced or powered-off cell phone in their locker upon arriving at school. Our intention is to help students create better habits when in learning environments. If students are unable to keep devices out of sight and in their lockers, teachers may provide a warning and remind/ask their students to put the phone away in their lockers or cell phone holders until the end of the period. If students do not comply and continue to engage in electronic device misuse, progressive discipline procedures will be followed. This may include, but is not limited to, the following consequences: having the student turn over his/her phone to the main office for parent pick up, or issuance of referrals resulting in detentions and other discipline-related interventions.

Parents - If you need to get a hold of your student during the day, please call the main office and we will either relay your message or bring your student to the main office for you to speak to them directly.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Students can choose clothing that makes them feel comfortable and safe, as long as it complies with the following guidelines:

1. Does not depict any violence, hatred, drugs, alcohol, gang affiliation, profanity, phobic language or cruelty of any kind
 2. Covers all appropriate areas at all times. Appropriate areas include: stomach, chest and sides (both male and female) and butt/pelvic/upper thigh areas.
 3. Items such as tank tops, sleeveless shirts, any type of shorts, coats, jackets, etc. are all allowed provided they adhere to #2 of this Section. (Low backs are not a problem)
 4. Jewelry is allowed, unless it becomes a safety concern.
 5. Hats, hoods, and other types of head coverings are not allowed unless required for religious or medical purposes.
 6. Footwear must be worn for health reasons (cannot go shoeless). **Due to safety concerns, Flip Flops and Slides are not to be worn in school.**
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PTO NEEDS YOU!

While we understand that many parents are short on time, we also know that you have a strong desire to become engaged not only in your student's education, but in helping to create a cooperative, positive environment in our school. Perhaps the single best way to make this happen is to join the PTO.

A parent teacher organization (PTO) gives parents and teachers the opportunity to work together to supplement and enrich the educational experience. And with today's tight budgets, a strong, well-functioning PTO can be a teacher's most important ally when it comes to achieving curricular and fundraising goals.

The purpose of the PTO is to encourage parents to assist with various school activities/functions/services, provide financial assistance where needs are identified within the school, foster a community atmosphere, and support the mission and vision of the school and school district.

WE NEED YOU! If you are interested in participating in PTO and/or coordinating some of our activities/events, please fill out the form below. Thank You!

[FOLLOW THIS LINK TO GET INVOLVED](#)

WHO TO CONTACT

Principal: Lisa Olsem

LisaOlsem@u-46.org - Ext. 2022

Assistant Principal: TBA

(Students with last names from A - L)

— Ext 2099

Assistant Principal: Geoffrey Fleming

(Students with last names from M - Z)

GeoffreyFleming@U-46.org – Ext. 2024

Counselor: Sean Hardiman

(Students with last names from A - G)

SeanHardiman@U-46.org—Ext: 2031

Counselor: Eve Perdikaris

(Students with last names from H - PA)

EvePerdikaris@U-46.org—Ext: 2124

Counselor: Jessica Ventrella

(Students with last names from PE - Z)

JessicaVentrella@U-46.org—Ext: 5322

Social Worker: Griselda Guzman

GriseldaGuzman@U-46.org—Ext: 2028

Nurse: Brandy Petkovic

BrandyPetkovic@U-46.org—Ext: 2242

Special Education Coordinator: Lynn Kurokawa

LynnKurokawa@U-46.org



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STUDENT IDs

As a measure to ensure student safety, **Students must wear an un-defaced school ID on a Kenyon Woods breakaway lanyard above their waist** while on campus during regular school hours. Students who arrive to school without their ID 's will need to wear a temporary ID. Upon the 2nd infraction, students will be issued disciplinary consequences.

BACKPACK POLICY

Backpacks should be used only to bring items back and forth to school. Once at school, all backpacks **MUST** be kept in the student's locker. During the school day, students are allowed to carry a small purse, pencil case, or zippered binders. If you student is struggling to keep themselves organized, please have them reach out to their counselors for help.





VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Only visitors on official school business are permitted on school grounds.

All visitors to KWMS must display a valid picture ID upon entrance to the main office and clearly display their visitors pass while on campus. At the conclusion of their visit, visitors will return to the main office to sign-out, return their visitors pass, and leave campus. The KWMS administration reserves the right to regulate

visitations on campus.

WATER BOTTLE POLICY

- All drinking fountains have been turned back on throughout the building however, we are recommending students bring a water bottle instead of drinking directly from the fountain.
- The container must contain water and water only. No juice, soda, coffee, or energy drinks.
- The container must have a closable lid of some sort; this can be a screw on lid or a push top.
- It is recommended that all bottles have a straw system so masks can be worn while taking a drink.
- Water bottle must be clear or see-through. Tinted water bottles are allowed as long as the contents of the bottle are visible.
- The student will be responsible to fill the bottle between classes. A student may not leave class to fill a bottle.
- Individual teachers will determine the appropriate use of water bottles and/or the appropriate place to utilize them safely. They will communicate their expectations with their class.



IMPORTANT DATES

8/3/23 - Kenyon Woods Kick Off - 1 pm - 6 pm
8/8/23 - School open for student visits - 12 pm - 4 pm
8/10/23 - School open for student visits - 9 am - 1 pm
8/15/23 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
8/29/23- Back to School Night - 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm
8/30/23 - Picture Day
9/4/23 - No School - Labor Day
10/5/22 - EXPLORE 2023 - Fieldtrip for all 8th Grader
10/9/23 - No School - Columbus Day
10/18/23 - PSAT Testing for all 8th graders

[Link to all 2023/24 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

