

Panther Paws

August 18, 2023

Message from the Principal

WOW, what an incredible start to the school year! As Principal of KWMS, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year! 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.



This week students were hopefully WOWed on their first day. I know I was. From the moment our students stepped off the bus until the end of the day when the last student left, they were part of our Kenyon Woods family. As I went into classrooms, I observed all kinds of fun activities; from an Escape Room simulation to students acting as scientist to a competition to see which group could build the tallest spaghetti towers. I shared my story with students, spoke a little Spanish in class (un poco), and got beat in Kahoots. There were so many great activities going on all over the building, it was awesome to see. For the rest of the week we learned all about what it means to Live the Kenyon Way and ROAR everyday. (Respect Ourselves and Act Responsibly) Overall, it has been a great week.

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



SOME WOW ACTIVITIES FROM THE FIRST WEEK!





SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

As a new school year gets underway, it's important for parents and guardians to talk to their children about expectations and consequences around issues of safety at school.

U-46 and our local law enforcement partners take all safety concerns to schools very seriously. Intentional disruptions to the safety of the school will face serious school consequences according to the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and criminal charges when appropriate. According to the [Illinois Criminal Statutes](#), potential criminal charges for intentional school safety threats may include felony charges.

Parents and guardians should also be aware of their children's social media activity, and remind them that no weapons are allowed on school grounds, including lookalike weapons. The safety and security of our students, staff, and entire school community is a top priority for us. Our safety measures include, but are not limited to, securing school entrances, walking the building before and after the school day, notifying law enforcement as soon as suspicious activity is observed, using the Raptor visitor management system to screen and track those visitors who enter our schools, reminding students of the importance to wear their school ID, and providing support for the mental and emotional well-being of our staff and students.

Parents and guardians should review the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Code of Conduct](#) with their child. In addition, please remind your child about the importance of "see something, say something." If they have any safety or security concerns, they should speak about them immediately to their teacher, principal, or another trusted adult.

Working together, we will continue to keep our schools safe learning environments for all our students and staff.

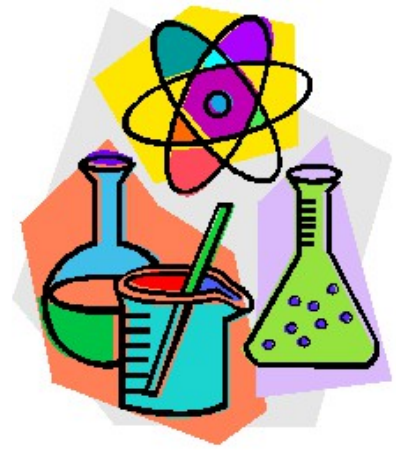
LOVE SCIENCE? JOIN SCIENCE OLYMPIADS!

Do you have a passion for science? Then you need to join our team for the Science Olympiad. Ms. Zielger and Ms. Febles will be hosting two informational meetings next week.

Tuesday, August 22nd at 3:30 - 5:00 p.m

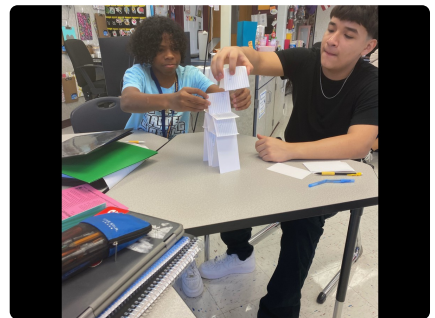
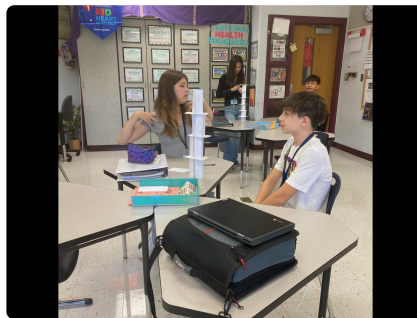
Thursday, August 24th from 8:00 am

Both meetings will be held in C150.



WE ALL BELONG!

Mrs. Dellis' health class spent time on Wednesday to discuss all the commonalities we actually have, instead of just assuming that we all are so different from one another. Students wrote all their commonalities on an index card, then students had a competition to see what team would build the tallest tower with those index cards. The largest tower exceeded 22 inches! That's a lot of things we have in common. We ended our time talking about empathy and how to show empathy for others!



JOIN STUDENT COUNCIL



**APPLICATION
DUE 8/28**

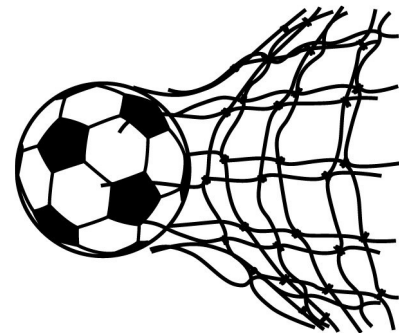


STUDENT COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING WITH BOTH THE STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION OF KENYON WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL TO MAKE OUR SCHOOL BETTER FOR ALL! TO FIND OUT MORE, PICK UP AN APPLICATION ON THE STAGE!

BOYS INTRAMURAL SOCCER

Boys Soccer Will Start Tuesday, September 5th

7th and 8th grade boys intramural soccer will be starting **Tuesday, September 5th**. Practices will be three times a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 3:30pm to 5:00pm every week until the tournament on Saturday, October 14th. Informational packets can be found on the stage starting next week. The participation forms and 20 dollar fee will need to be turned in at, or prior to, the first practice to Coach Ventrella or Coach Besinaiz.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Help keep Kenyon Woods Represented! We are in need of a few parents to represent KWMS at the Community Advisory Council. This group meets once a month, usually on a Thursday night. If interested, please email me at LisaOlsem@U-46.org.



**Community
Advisory
Council**
Your voice in U46 education

Represent Your Child's School

As a member of the Community Advisory Council, your role is crucial in providing guidance and support to the U-46 Board of Education and Administration to ensure all students receive the best educational opportunities.

CAC members serve as liaisons between their schools, the CAC, and the School District to identify children's needs and bring ideas to the District.

2023-2024

**Sept. 7 • Oct. 5 • Nov. 2 • Dec. 7
Jan. 11 • Feb. 8 • March 7
April 4 • May 2**

**Contact your
school principal**

OR

**U-46 School and
Community Relations
Department**

847-888-5000, ext.5003
info@u-46.org

*All monthly meetings are
typically held at
7 p.m. on a Thursday*

Visit website for meeting location:



u46cac.org



BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY



BOYS Cross Country

Help us keep the trophy for a third time in a row! Any boys interested in Cross Country should pick up a packet from the stage in the commons. Practice starts after school on August 29th and ends on September 26th. Practices are after school: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:30pm to 4:45pm. The activity bus is available after school for students needing transportation home. Permission slips along with a \$20 fee (Cash or Check payable to KWMS) are due on the first day of practice (August 29th). You must have a permission slip in order to stay for practice.

If there are any questions, please reach out to Coach Guzman griseldaguzman@u-46.org or Coach Zimmerman christiezimmerman@u-46.org See you there!

GIRLS Cross Country

Girls Cross Country will start on Wednesday, August 23 after school. Come and join our team of champions! Registration packets are in the lunchroom. Practices will be from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Coach Torres lorenatorrescastillo@u-46.org or Coach Bennett tammybennett@u-46.org See you there!

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TRYOUTS

Welcome Back!!

Tryouts and practices for both the 7th and 8th grade girls volleyball will be held in the morning. Please enter Door 14 (side door to the gym). Door opens at 7:00 a.m. Please do not go to the front door of school.



1. There will be two informational meetings held before school starting at 8:30 a.m. in Room C141 on August 17th and 18th. Tryout packets will be made available at that time.
2. **All paperwork** including proof of a sports physical must be turned in on or before 3:00 p.m. **Wednesday, August 23rd.**

YOU CANNOT TRYOUT WITHOUT AN UPDATED SPORTS PHYSICAL; NO EXCEPTIONS (District Policy)!

- 8th Grade turn into Coach Greguras in Room C141
- 7th Grade turn into Coach Mapes in Room A111

Tryout dates are August 24th & 25th AT 7:00 AM. Both days are mandatory, there are ONLY 15 positions available per team.



Versatrans
**My Stop
App™**

MESSAGE FROM TRANSPORTATION

U-46's school buses are a critical link between home and 55 schools and programs for more than 25,000 students across 11 communities served by the District. We are grateful for the bus

drivers, assistants, route managers, mechanics and other Transportation staff who keep this important system running every school day.

At the beginning of the school year, there are often delays as drivers become familiar with their routes and stops, and as adjustments are made to improve service and efficiency. We ask for patience from U-46 families during this period.

School bus delays can also be caused by weather conditions, road closures, and more. U-46 parents and guardians with children who ride U-46 buses are urged to download the Versatrans "My Stop" app so that they can see, in real time, the location of their child's school bus.

[Here](#) are step-by-step instructions on how to download the app to your smartphone, sign in, and navigate the app.

PICTURE DAY IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

School Portrait day/s will be held on **August 30, 2023**. Afterwards, you'll be able to view your images, order packages and select your image for your yearbook (please remember to do so

before it's selected for you), all orders will be delivered to your home.

To view and order photos from Picture Day: You'll receive an email when your images are ready to view online. Or, you can search for them at vipis.com shortly after photos are taken. If you need further assistance, contact VIP at support@vipis.com.





Taste

Under the Lights 2023

August 18, 4:30pm-9:00pm

Showcase our Fall Athletes
#RollStorm





- *Food Trucks
- *Family Fun
- *Support South Elgin High School





DON'T MISS OUT ON KWMS SPIRIT WEAR!

30% OFF EVERYTHING AND FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$75

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,

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 starting at 6pm. We are so excited to be able to offer you this in person opportunity to meet your student's 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)

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.



gg61664964 www.gograph.com

[CLICK HERE FOR A COPY OF THIS MONTHS CAFETERIA MENU](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

8/29/23- Back to School Night - 6:00 pm

8/30/23 - Picture Day

9/4/23 - No School - Labor Day

9/6/23 - Girls Volleyball @ Ellis

9/7/23 - Girls Volleyball @ Kimball

9/11/23 - Girls Volleyball @ Larsen

9/13/23 - Girls Volleyball - Home vs. Abbott

9/18/23 - Girls Volleyball @ Eastview

9/20/23 - Girls Volleyball - Home vs. Tefft

9/23/23 - District MS Cross Country Meet @ Bartlett HS 2 pm

10/18/23 - PSAT Testing for all 8th graders

Together
Relationships
Family
Important
Fun
DreamBig
Support
Community
Inspiring
Expectations
Responsible
Collaborative
Integral
Success
ROAR
Accepting
Educators
Learning
Change
Work
Positive
Empowering
Partners

Attendance line: 847-289-6685 Ext: 6654



Lisa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters