

# KWMS Panther Pride

August 16, 2024

## Message from the Principal

What an amazing start to the school year! As the Principal of KWMS, I am thrilled to welcome everyone back for another exciting year. We are so happy to see our students return, filling our classrooms and hallways with their energy and enthusiasm for learning. Our mission is to ensure that every child feels welcomed, connected, and a part of the Kenyon Woods Middle School family.



This week, I hope our students were as WOWed on their first day as I was. From the moment they stepped off the bus to the last bell, they were embraced as members of our Kenyon Woods family. As I visited classrooms, I witnessed a variety of engaging activities—from an Escape Room simulation and science experiments to a competition where students built the tallest spaghetti towers. I also shared my story, spoke a little Spanish (un poco), and even lost a game of Kahoot. The creativity and excitement in every corner of the building were truly inspiring. Throughout the week, we focused on what it means to "Live the Kenyon Way" and ROAR every day (Respect Ourselves and Act Responsibly). It's been a fantastic start to the year.

I am deeply honored to serve as the principal of Kenyon Woods Middle School. It is a privilege to be part of a community where parents, teachers, and students genuinely care for one another and work together to build positive relationships that support both academic and social growth. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at [LisaOlsem@u-46.org](mailto: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**



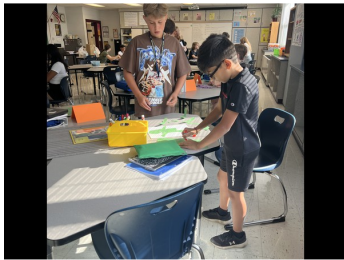
**Team Building in STEM**



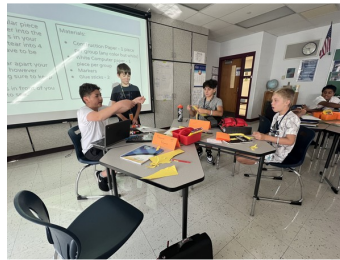
**Welcome Back!**



**Kenny is in the HOUSE!**



**Blue Panthers Working together**



**Blue Panthers Working together**



**Blue Panthers Working together**

## WATER BOTTLE POLICY

Please note, this policy is meant to keep our students, staff and school environment safe. **NO Metal Cups/Containers will be allowed! This includes Yetis and Stanleys**

- The container must contain water and water only. No juice, soda, coffee, or energy drinks.
- The container must have a closable lid, which can be a screw-on lid or a push top.
- The water bottle must be clear or see-through. Tinted water bottles are allowed as long as the bottle's contents are visible.
- The student will be responsible for filling 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

## 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](#)

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**PICTURE DAY IS FRIDAY - AUGUST 30TH**

# VIEW & ORDER PHOTOS FROM **PICTURE DAY!**

**You'll receive an email when your images are ready to view online. Or, you can search for your gallery at [vipis.com](http://vipis.com) shortly after photos are taken.**

If you need further assistance, contact us at [support@vipis.com](mailto:support@vipis.com)



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## **SAVE THE DATE! KWMS BACK TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM NIGHT**

Back to School Curriculum Night on **Thursday, 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.

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# **KENYON WOODS**

## **PTO MEETING**



### **MONDAY, AUGUST 19TH**

### **6:30PM VIA ZOOM**

### **HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!**

**ZOOM LINK:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88486593800>

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#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE CAFETERIA**

We are very excited here in the cafeteria for the start of a new school year! All breakfast and lunches are free again this year! Please encourage your students to take advantage of this wonderful program. You can access the monthly menus from the menu link in the Principal's weekly newsletter.





We also sell Ala Carte items for a cost. This would include items such as chips, cookies, bottled water, extra milk, fruit, vegetable servings. Eventually, it is our goal to reopen the snack bar which would include a larger selection, such as ice cream, flavored drinks and more! To add money to your student's account, please visit [MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM](http://MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM)

If you have any questions, or need help, feel free to contact Jane Russo, Cafeteria Manager ext 2227.

# WANT TO BEE A LEADER?



**Join  
Student Council!**

**Pick up an  
application  
from the stage  
in the commons!**

**Applications  
due 8/29**

**First meeting  
9/11**

## ATTENTION GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

informational meetings starting at 8:30 am in room C141 on August 15th and August 16th. Only need to attend one of the meetings.

All tryout paperwork due by Wednesday August 21st by 3:00 pm, **this includes a copy of a sports physical** attached to the paperwork (no exceptions).

### Tryout dates:

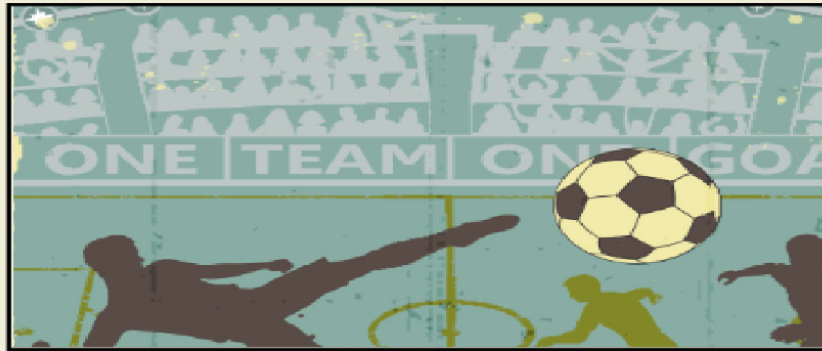
Both days are mandatory:

August 22nd and 23rd- Enter in Door 14 (Door is located by the gym) and the doors will open at 7:00 a.m. and tryouts end at 8:30 a.m.



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# **KWMS Soccer Tryout** **7th & 8th Grade Boys**



**Hey KWMS Soccer Community!**

**Exciting news! After two decades of hard work, soccer will now become a full-time sport in School District U-46!**

**Get ready for the 7th and 8th KWMS Boys soccer tryouts – your opportunity to represent Kenny Woods districtwide. The tryouts are set to take place after school on August 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Make sure to bring your gear and complete all the necessary forms, which are available in the main office. Remember, no completed forms, no tryouts!**

**It's time for some real competition as we'll be making cuts to determine our final roster. Don't hesitate to reach out to Coach Besinalz and Coach Vidic if you have any questions.**

**We can't wait to see you at the tryouts! Get pumped and get ready to show us what you've got!**

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## **SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES**

As part of our commitment to ensuring a safe learning environment, Kenyon Woods Middle School 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.

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## **MY STOP SCHOOL BUS TRACKING APP**

Versatrans My Stop™ helps parents and guardians of U-46 students who ride the bus track the location of their child's bus. The app is updated automatically with GPS information about the current location of the bus, which will especially be helpful when there are weather or traffic

delays. However, the information on My Stop does not guarantee or supersede scheduled times, as computers and GPS signals may have glitches or delays. Please have your child ready and waiting at their bus stop prior to the scheduled time listed in Infinite Campus. Bus substitutions may not always be reflected.

The app is free and is available from your favorite app store for both Android and Apple devices. Search for 'Versatrans MyStop' in your app store - there are several with similar names, so make sure you download the right one.



Versatrans  
**My Stop**  
App™

Free! Download today:



### Download Instructions

Here are step-by-step instructions on how to download the app to your smartphone, sign in, and navigate the app:

[Downloading and Using My Stop App \(English\)](#)

[Downloading and Using My Stop App Video \(English\)](#)

[Bajar y Usar la Aplicación My Stop \(Español\)](#)

[Bajar y Usar la Aplicación My Stop VIDEO \(Español\)](#)

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## EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

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.

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## 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.**

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## **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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# Kenyon Woods PTO



HELP  
WANTED

## LOOKING FOR PARENTS TO JOIN!

### WHAT WE DO!!

FUNDRAISERS  
NO COOKS  
SPIRIT WEAR  
DANCE CONCESSIONS  
TEACHER APPRECIATION



### WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR!

BOARD MEMBERS  
PARTICIPATION AT MONTHLY MEETING  
VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS AS NEEDED

WE MEET THE SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30PM VIA ZOOM

## WHO TO CONTACT

**Principal: Lisa Olsem**

[LisaOlsem@u-46.org](mailto:LisaOlsem@u-46.org) - Ext. 2022

**Assistant Principal: Shannon Henderson**

(Students with last names from A - L)

[ShannonHenderson@u-46.org](mailto:ShannonHenderson@u-46.org) — Ext 2099

**Assistant Principal: Geoffrey Fleming**

(Students with last names from M - Z)

[GeoffreyFleming@U-46.org](mailto:GeoffreyFleming@U-46.org) — Ext. 2024

**Counselor: Melanie Rook**

(Students with last names from A - G)

[MelanieRook@U-46.org](mailto:MelanieRook@U-46.org)—Ext: 2031

**Counselor: Eve Perdikaris**

(Students with last names from H - PA)

[EvePerdikaris@U-46.org](mailto:EvePerdikaris@U-46.org)—Ext: 2124

**Counselor: Jessica Ventrella**

(Students with last names from PE - Z)

[YeseniaMartinez@U-46.org](mailto:YeseniaMartinez@U-46.org)—Ext: 5322

**Social Worker: Griselda Guzman**

[GriseldaGuzman@U-46.org](mailto:GriseldaGuzman@U-46.org)—Ext: 2028

**Nurse: Brandy Petkovic**

[BrandyPetkovic@U-46.org](mailto:BrandyPetkovic@U-46.org)—Ext: 2242

**Special Education Coordinator: Lynn Kurokawa**

[LynnKurokawa@U-46.org](mailto: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.

## KWMS SPIRITWEAR

The official **Kenyon Woods** spirit wear store has launched a back-to-school sale! Choose from hundreds of designs and garments, all with home delivery!

We are offering a **limited-time savings of 30% sitewide!** In addition, all orders over \$75 will receive free shipping. [Shop Now!](#)

**KENYON WOODS**  
THE OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE

Kenyon Woods Middle

KENYON WOODS PANTHERS

**30% OFF SITEWIDE!**

**FREE SHIPPING**  
ORDERS OVER \$75

**1ST PLACE Spiritwear** | **DATES: AUGUST 13TH - SEPTEMBER 17TH**  
**ORDER AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/33326**

or SCAN HERE TO ORDER

The advertisement features a collection of Kenyon Woods spiritwear items: a navy blue polo shirt, a grey t-shirt with a rainbow logo, a navy blue hoodie, a black t-shirt with 'KENYON WOODS PANTHERS' text, a navy blue baseball cap, a black water bottle, and a grey drawstring bag. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

## IMPORTANT DATES

8/19/24 - PTO Mtg 6:30 via Zoom

8/29/24- Back to School Night - 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm

8/30/23 - Picture Day

9/2/24 - No School - Labor Day

9/26/24 - EXPLORE 2023 - Fieldtrip for all 8th Grader



[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

