

KWMS Panther Pride

May 2nd, 2025

Message from the Principal

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week so I am going to share a message that I have shared in the past. Please take a moment to thank all those incredible teachers who have made a difference in your child's lives.

This is a time for us to say thank you to all those wonderful, patient teachers that work so hard to inspire and motivate our children. In honor of them, I would like to share a few excerpts from an article I found written by a teacher entitled "What Teacher Really Want for Teacher Appreciation Day".

May is here. The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, and people across the country are thinking of ways they can show thanks and appreciation for teachers.

For Teacher Appreciation Week, I've received pencils with "Awesome Teacher" in gold letters, mugs with catchy phrases like "The Goodest Teecher," and candles. I definitely appreciate the effort, especially if it's coming from the hearts of kids and parents. However, this is what teachers really want for Teacher Appreciation Day.

We want to hear from our students and former students. *A handwritten note would be great, but we would be just as thrilled with an email. We want kids popping their heads into our room between classes, telling us we're awesome. Or that we made them realize how wonderful it is to escape into a good book. Or how our classes have made them want to go out and fight for justice in an unjust world.*

We want to hear positive things from parents. *We want to hear from the parents of our students as well, so they can tell us how far their children have come under our tutelage. We'd love to hear those little stories or examples of ways we made a difference that we probably didn't even know about. Are your kids confident, happy, and excited for school now? Tell us, please!*



I'm sure the teachers at Kenyon Woods would greatly appreciate your kind words and support during Teacher Appreciation Week. It's so important to recognize the dedication and impact that teachers have on their students and communities. If you're a fellow teacher, a student or a parent, your encouragement and acknowledgment mean so much. Please flood those email boxes with all the love and kindness they deserve!

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

EVERY MINUTE MATTER PRESENTS MAY ATTENDANCE MADNESS

Every Minute Matters, the District's attendance campaign, is excited to present May Attendance Madness—a bracket-style challenge running May 5–23, designed to celebrate student commitment. Each week, schools in each network will compete head-to-head, with the most improved attendance (compared to the same week in May 2024) advancing to the next round. The final week of school will determine the 2025 Attendance Champion for each network.

To prepare, check the Every Minute Matters [Attendance Data Trends](#) webpage to see your school's attendance rate for the previous week. Let's work together to finish the year strong—because Every Minute Matters!

AT THE END OF THIS WEEK, KWMS IS IN 3RD PLACE!

MAY *Attendance* MADNESS



HELP YOUR SCHOOL BE
RECOGNIZED AS THE
ATTENDANCE CHAMPION

MAY 5-23, 2025

SCHOOLS WILL GO HEAD-TO-HEAD TO
DETERMINE WHO WILL ADVANCE IN THE
COMPETITION UNTIL A CHAMPION IS NAMED.

Help us finish the year strong by
attending school everyday!



7th Grade Boys Volleyball District Champions

Congratulations to Mr. Cesaroni on an incredible ending to a remarkable coaching career—and what a finale it was! A huge shoutout to our 7th Grade Boys Volleyball team for their outstanding performance in capturing the District Championship! Your teamwork, determination, and resilience on the court were truly inspiring. This championship is a testament to your hard work and to the leadership of a coach who gave his all. What a legacy to leave behind—well done to the entire team and Coach Cesaroni!



7th grade Girls Soccer District Champions!

Huge congratulations to our 7th Grade Girls Soccer team on their dominant and well-deserved District Championship victory! Your skill, determination, and teamwork led to a truly decisive win, showcasing the strength and spirit of this incredible group. A special shoutout to Coach Vidic for his guidance and leadership throughout the season—what an amazing achievement for both the team and coach! We're so proud of you all!



SHOUT OUT TO OUR INCREDIBLE CHORUS!

Congratulations KWMS Choir on your amazing performance!!! Thank you for all of your hard work this year!



REMINDER ABOUT DRESS GUIDELINES

With the warm weather we tend to see quite a few new fashion styles. While they may be in style for going out, they are not always appropriate for school. Please check what your student is wearing before they leave for school. If you question it, it is probably not right for school. 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, sexual content 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.**
-



Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5 - May 9



Scan here to leave a note!



To make this week extra special for our teachers and staff, we're collecting notes of appreciation from families. These notes can be short messages expressing gratitude, sharing specific examples of how a teacher has made a positive impact on your student, or simply conveying words of encouragement and thanks.

ICE CREAM is coming soon to the Snack Shack! Be sure to load up your account at [MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM!](https://myschoolbucks.com)





DID YOU MISS ORDERING A YEARBOOK!

We have 56 extra yearbooks available for purchase! If you missed out on getting one, now is your chance. Please bring \$45 cash to the office in an envelope with your first and last name, along with your 1st hour room number. Act fast before they're gone!

2025

U-46



DEAF & HARD OF HEARING 5K

Presented by Geneva Hearing Services

Saturday, May 10

Race begins at 10:00 am

(Registration starts at 9:00 am)

**Bartlett Nature Center
2050 West Stearns Road, Bartlett, IL 60103**

**For more information:
tinyurl.com/u46DHH**

Online Registration:

<https://2025U46DeafandHardofHearing5K.itsyourrace.com/register/>

Come support our students!



**Run - Walk
Open to the Public - Signing Volunteers
Stroller and Wheelchair Accessible Route
Bathrooms - Meal provided - Activities**

**Pre-registration encouraged
Ages 3-17 \$12 (Day of Race \$15)
Ages 18+ \$25 (Day of Race \$30)**



*Night Under
the Stars*

8TH GRADE DANCE

Dress to impress
Dinner! Dancing!
Photo Booth!
Friends!

MAY 9TH
DINNER 6 TO 6:45 PM
DANCING 6:45 TO 8 PM
KWMS COMMONS

Tickets on sale April 21st through May 6th. \$15
Turn your money in an envelope with your
name on it to the office by May 6th.



Night Under the Stars

Student Council is looking for donations to help make the 8th grade dance extra special. Please consider donating something off this Amazon list so we can decorate the space.
Thank you!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

HELP OUT WITH THE 8TH GRADE DANCE!

Student Council has a variety of opportunities to help out at the 8th Grade Dance on May 9th. Please consider signing up to help set up, serve dinner, or clean up. Just scan the QR code to see the available openings. Thank you!



FROM THE CREATIVE MINDS OF OUR PANTHERS

Art 3 students have completed their unit on Digital Art. They learned about one of the oldest known forms of art, the *Mosaic*, and used Google Draw to create a Digital Mosaic of an animal. Here are two compelling images created by **Connor Grant** and **Tayden Fuchs**:



South Elgin HS Auto Show

Hosted by the 2025 Auto Club

20-classes
Trophies
T-shirts
Concessions
Raffle Prizes

Saturday May-17th
9 AM-2PM

South Elgin High School
760 East Main St. South
Elgin IL

FREE FOR SPECTATORS!
\$10-DOLLARS TO ENTER CARS
Proceeds benefit the
Automotive Technology Program



U-46 Middle School Experience

- Meet teachers and students from your middle school
- Have fun
- Get to know the building

Open to rising 7th grade students at all U-46 middle schools.



[Click here or scan above to REGISTER!](#)

Dates:

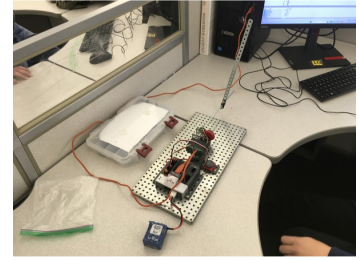
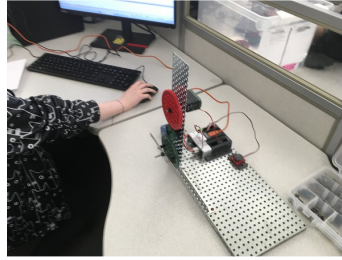
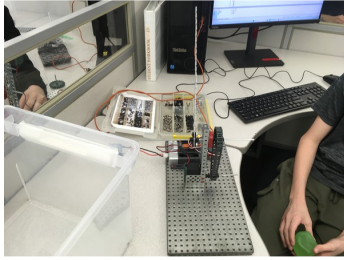
July 29-30 8 am to 12 noon
at Abbott, Canton, Ellis, Eastview, Kenyon Woods, and Tefft Middle Schools

August 4-5 8 am to 12 noon
at Larsen and Hawk Hollow Middle Schools

August 7 1 pm - 5 pm
at Kimball Middle School

PICTURES OF THE WEEK

Tollbooths in Automation & Robotics



It Could Be Better: How Star Wars Inspires Lifelong Learning

Ms. Cynthia Febles - Science Teacher

This time, I'm writing about something a bit unusual—a hobby that began in 1977 and never faded. In fact, it has only grown stronger over the years. That hobby is my passion for *Star Wars*—its movies, stories, and universe.

Part of this passion includes attending *Star Wars Celebration*, a fan convention held every two years. I attended my first Celebration in 2017. What I remember most vividly is standing in a line that seemed to stretch for miles. But the wait was worth it—I finally got to meet some of the actors and producers who had brought my favorite stories to life, both in live-action and animation.

The most recent Celebration took place in Japan, and just over a week ago, I traveled there for the event. Held at Makuhari Messe, it brought together nearly 100,000 people from over 130 countries, all united by their shared love for the *Star Wars* saga.

Although I could tell you countless stories from my short time in Japan—from almost ending up in Northern Japan after boarding the wrong train, to experiencing the warmth and kindness of the Japanese people, to attending a panel on Science of the Revenge of the Sith - Volcanism, Evolution, and Artificial Intelligence with Darth Maul in the audience, or flying back home in the EVA Hello Kitty 777-300ER straight from Taiwan—there's one moment that truly stuck with me.

It happened during a panel celebrating the 20th anniversary of Lucasfilm Animation, hosted by David Collins, Athena Portillo, and Dave Filoni, who is now the Chief Creative Officer of Lucasfilm. Dave and Athena reflected on their incredible accomplishments in animating some of the most beloved *Star Wars* stories, including *The Clone Wars*, *Rebels*, and *Visions*. However, what stood out to me most was Dave's philosophy when assessing their achievements. He used the phrase "It Could Be Better," or "CBB," as a guiding principle—a way to set higher standards for their next projects and to always strive for growth.

As an educator, this message deeply resonated with me. "CBB"—*It Could Be Better*—is a powerful mindset, one rooted in self-reflection and the pursuit of continuous growth. It's not about

perfection, but about recognizing that every success still holds room for refinement and greater impact. This philosophy aligns closely with what I strive to instill in my students: a willingness to challenge themselves, to learn from both failure and success, and to always reach beyond their current limits.

What struck me most was realizing that even the creators behind some of the most beloved and critically acclaimed *Star Wars* stories are guided by the same principle. They don't rest on their past achievements—instead, they ask, "How can we make this even better?" Their humility and drive for excellence mirror the exact qualities I hope to nurture in my classroom: resilience, curiosity, and a commitment to lifelong learning. It was a profound reminder that whether you're crafting a galaxy far, far away or shaping minds in a classroom, the journey of improvement never truly ends.

We were also treated to an exclusive sneak peek of some upcoming animated projects—but of course, we were sworn to secrecy, so I can't share those with you!

As for where my passion for *Star Wars* will take me next—the answer is Los Angeles, the host city for the next Celebration, which will honor the 50th anniversary of the beginning of this legendary saga. And as always, one of the best parts of these gatherings is the people I meet. We all share a mutual enthusiasm, swapping stories of our adventures (including some good laughs and amazement about Japanese bidets- I miss those!) and building our excitement for what's to come.

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 genevievehebeke@u-46.org**

[LINK TO LUNCH MENU](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

- 5/7/25 - Orchestra Concert - 6:30 pm @ SEHS
- 5/9/25 - 8th Grade Dance - 6 pm
- 5/14/25 - Band Concert - 6:30 pm @ SEHS
- 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