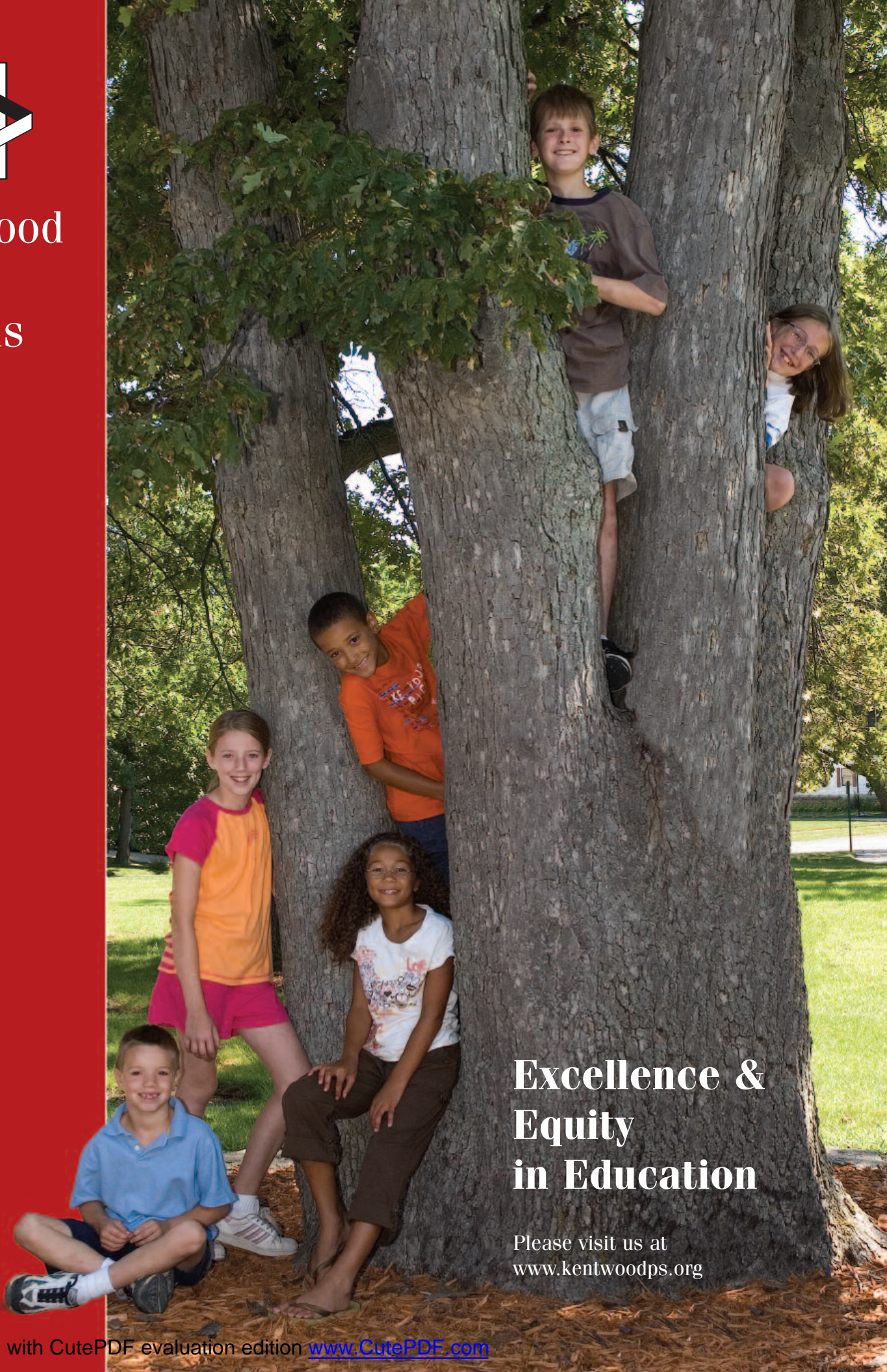




Kentwood  
Public  
Schools



**Excellence &  
Equity  
in Education**

Please visit us at  
[www.kentwoodps.org](http://www.kentwoodps.org)





## Kentwood Values are America's Values

*Kentwood Public School Students  
Do the Right Things!*

We:

- Learn and improve every day
- Are honest, reliable, and hard workers
- Respect other people's feelings, space, and things
- Create GREAT options and choices for our lives

Kentwood Public Schools are the heart of the community. Our families are an integral and valued part of the education of our students. We provide the best-trained staff to educate our children in a safe and orderly environment.

Education in Kentwood is about capturing the excitement of children to learn and to inspire them to believe in the value of ALL human beings. We know our children will make the world a better place!





## We Believe...

- In a safe, secure, and disciplined environment for all students and staff
- That all students are expected to master the Michigan comprehensive curriculum (four years English, four years Math, four years Science, three years Social Studies)
- In celebrating the richness of our diverse student body. We are becoming a cosmopolitan district.
- That all students will have the opportunities – and be strongly encouraged and expected to achieve their highest potential
- In providing a rigorous curriculum which uses time as the variable for learning. For instance, trimesters at the high school allow students one, two, or three different timeframes to master essential skills in Algebra and Geometry.
- In being data driven to continuously monitor every student's progress
- That a child's education must involve families and the entire community. We welcome and encourage parents to be actively involved in the academic and social life of their children.

You expect the best for your child – and we deliver!





Our core commitment  
is to long-term excellence.



## We're Involved

Parents are their children's first role models and teachers. We want to keep them involved!

Parents participate through the parent/teacher organizations, advisory councils, and as school volunteers. They are included in professional development training sessions, and employee interview committees. In addition, district-wide groups such as academic, athletic, and music boosters, key communicators, brainstormers, and a district-wide parent advisory group are just a few more ways to keep parents informed.



## Kentwood Schools

We are a child-centered environment. We expect our students to work hard and excel. Rewarding every student's achievement in a nurturing environment is important to us. Our environment and comprehensive standards develop self-motivated students who upon graduation are ready to assume the role of responsible individuals in a global society. We offer:

- A K-12 curriculum designed to meet the individual needs of all students including gifted and talented, at-risk, special needs, and alternative education pupils.
- The only district in the county with a self-contained gifted and talented program for high-achieving students in grades 3-8!
- The Scholastic Reading Program – which has an emphasis on phonics and literature
- The Chicago Math Series – computation, problem solving (using analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills), and parent “Home-Links” for collaboration
- Computer Literacy programs
- Music, Art, Physical Education, and Spanish K-5
- Up-to-date computer labs for assistance in reading, math, and research applications Powerpoint and Excel for student presentations
- Fast ForWord computer labs for building on the concepts of neuroplasticity and emphasizing reading comprehension and speed. All students, including special education and English language learners, become more efficient and effective students.
- Respect and responsibility programs for social competence and personal development
- Odyssey of the Mind competition for creativity and intellectual challenge
- KIDS after school program offering 30 choices from athletic, artistic and other extended learning opportunities to students in grades 2-8



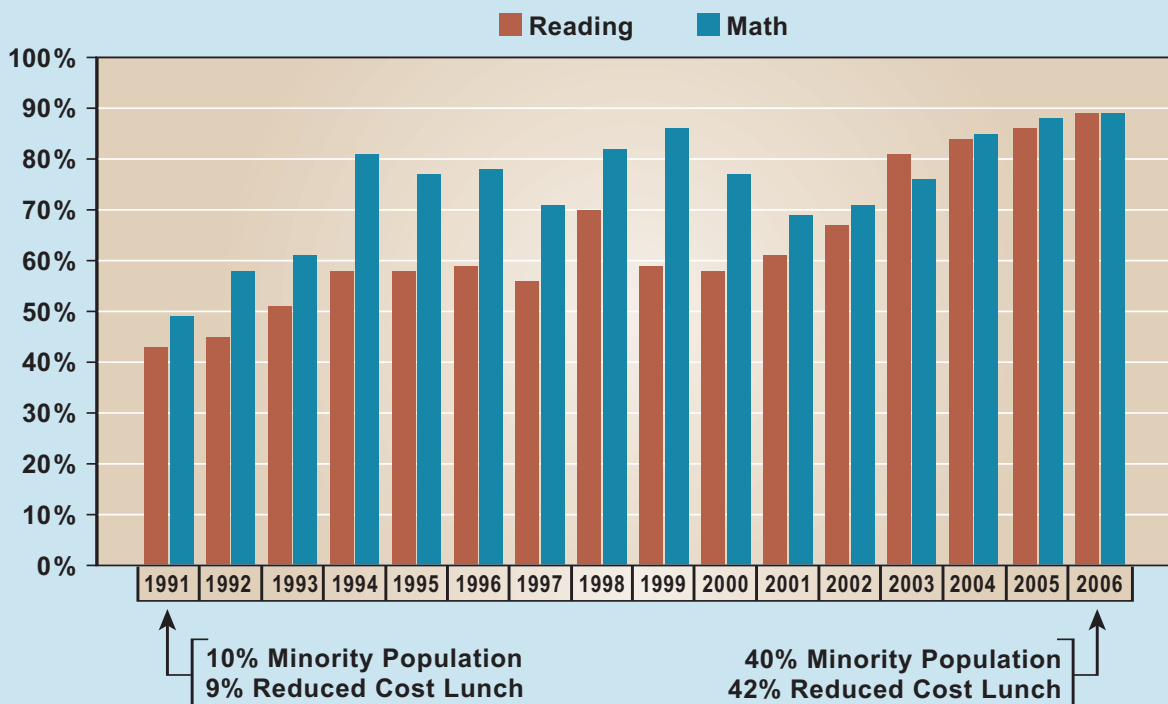
# Our Middle Schools

## Achieve and Maintain Excellence With...

- Michigan Exemplary Blue Ribbon School status
- 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Scholastic reading program
- 7th and 8th grade Advance Language arts programs
- READ 180 and Fast ForWord programs
- Connected Math Series and computational skills
- Computer literacy curriculum
- Band, choir, and orchestra programs that involve over 50% of all students!
- Major productions of plays and musicals
- Mentoring programs
- Interscholastic athletic competition in six sports
- KIDS Intramural programs in seven sports
- “Capturing Kids Hearts” program



**Kentwood Public Schools**  
District Elementary MEAP Math and Reading — Percent Proficient







Student achievement always drives our decision making.



The Kentwood Public Schools have arrived on the national scene! We have defied the research and are being studied as a national model for schools across the United States. As we have become larger and more economically and culturally diverse, we have embraced the concept of unity through diversity.

Simply put, we believe ALL children can and will become proficient learners if they attend a school system with high academic and behavioral expectations and a strong support base.

Our district has the resources to offer the most extensive academic, music, art, and athletic programs in the area to ensure that every child's unique needs and interests are met. There is something for everyone in Kentwood. The variety of social and academic opportunities ensure that students do not feel isolated.

Every staff member takes education seriously – very seriously. We demand both high academic and behavioral standards. We care, dream, and expect more from our students, and they deliver!

We are a “no-excuse” district. Parents allow us to work with their most precious gift – and we are thankful for their confidence and support.

Our promise to our parents is to keep them excited about their students' academic accomplishments and awards. The athletic achievements, music, art, and theater experiences further develop our students into well-rounded individuals. In addition, and most importantly, our students' positive self concepts and winning attitudes will make you glad to call Kentwood your home!









A promise made  
is a promise kept.



## East Kentwood High School is a Michigan Blue Ribbon School

- We offer CCNA (Certified Cisco Network Administrator) technology certification
- Twelve Advanced Placement classes for college credit – the largest number of AP courses of the 20 school districts in Kent County
- Four years of study in German, Spanish, Latin, and French
- Numerous opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities including:
  - Twenty-four performing arts groups in band, choir, and orchestra
  - Major productions of plays and musicals
  - A high school marching band of 270-plus members which is one of the largest high school bands in the state
  - Twenty-seven varsity sports with 61 teams – offering a balance in boys and girls sports
  - Intramural sports programs for grades 6-12
  - Exciting dance and sideline cheer with competitive opportunities
- All district buildings continue to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under state and federal No Child Left Behind guidelines
- East Kentwood High School received the Governor's Cup for the most MEAP award winners in the OK Red Conference

“Returning to East Kentwood as the principal for the past ten years has been an honor and a privilege. I am thankful that East Kentwood provided me with numerous academic and extra-curricular opportunities. I am grateful to the Kentwood community not only for continuing, but expanding those opportunities for our students today. It is great to be a Falcon!”

— Joe Beel, 1972 Graduate

*East Kentwood High School Principal*

(State of Michigan High School Principal of the Year in 2003)



- The implementation of the trimester class schedule allows students to meet all the Michigan graduation requirements and have ample time to schedule classes in many elective areas.
- Crossroads is our new alternative high school building for students who prefer a learning environment with a comprehensive curriculum within a smaller setting.
- Kentwood's diverse student body continually wins competitive awards in athletics, academics, choral groups, band, orchestra, and debate.
- Between 70% to 75% of our graduating seniors continue on to attend a college or university. A significant portion receives scholarships for academics, fine arts, and athletics. The class of 2006 received well over \$2.4 million in scholarships and grants!
- A freshman campus dedicated to the developmental and social skill areas of 13-14 year-old students within a rigorous academic setting
- Many of our students choose Kent Career/Technical Center classes to expand real world career opportunities such as internships directly in the health care fields, management information systems, electronics, and many other high demand career fields.





## Have You Heard?

East Kentwood High School graduates are currently attending such prestigious institutions as Harvard, Yale, Notre Dame, Cambridge, the United State Air Force Academy, West Point Military Academy, Purdue, University of Michigan, Michigan State, Western Michigan, University of Illinois and many other excellent institutions.

All Kentwood elementary and middle schools are equipped with FutureKids and Fast ForWord Computer labs. Our state MEAP test scores in math, reading, science, and writing are consistently well above (80%+) county and state averages. Our bands, choirs, orchestras, debate team, and American Political Thought team hold prominent state and national rankings.

There is a 24-hour, online parent/guardian access to student grades, attendance records and homework assignments. Teachers K-12 are using a standards-based reporting system with all students in the district. This enhances accountability and support from staff, students, and parents. We are one of the very few school districts in the nation to use this parent friendly K-12 reporting system!

*Grand Rapids Magazine* ranks our school system in the top 25% among 29 school districts in West Michigan. This ranking was based upon performance, funding priorities, school environment, and community involvement using 21 different criteria!

## Thanks To The Community, Kentwood Public Schools Are In Excellent Shape

Our community has continually supported us. Most recently, an \$85.5 million bond was passed. All 17 buildings (11 elementary, 3 middle school, 9th grade building, 10-12, alternative high school) are state of the art! Our ten-year Building and Site millage is dedicated to keeping these buildings and facilities in excellent shape through 2016.

This is all made possible by the foresight and dedication of the citizens of Kentwood.





# Our Facilities...

- Separate football and soccer facilities, each with artificial turf
- District-owned ice arena
- The aquatics center has three different areas for all ages including an 85 degree pool for the arthritic/elderly/physically challenged – or those who just like the water a little warmer
- The East Kentwood Fine Arts Auditorium serves the Kentwood community with a 1,600 seat state-of-the-art facility





# Listen To Our Graduates



“East Kentwood High School allowed me to develop the study habits and time management skills necessary to survive the rigors of West Point. The broad range of sports, clubs, music groups, and community service organizations were opportunities for continuous physical and mental development. The diverse academic curriculum allowed me to pick and choose classes that interested me and even receive college credit classes. I took away from East Kentwood a strong academic, physical, and mental foundation that helps me be successful at West Point.”

— *Michael R. Griffin, 2005 Graduate*



“During my junior and senior years at East Kentwood, I took Advance Placement (AP) courses in English, government, calculus, and chemistry, as well as dual-enrollment at Cornerstone University for Organic Chemistry. East Kentwood's broad AP class offering, great learning environment, and flexible teachers allowed me to walk into the Colorado School of Mines for a chemical engineering degree as a sophomore. Thanks EK!”

— *Zach Aman, 2005 Graduate*



“As a product of Kentwood Public Schools, I follow a map of excellence. Dynamic leaders within the district have prepared me with the willingness to find an open road and explore creative and innovative opportunities. Through my years of focus, determination, and drive at Kentwood Public Schools, I have embraced the ability of controlling my future. I am currently in a position to motivate the next generation of Kentwood students in building confidence to maximize their own talents and achieve academic success.”

— *Sheree Joseph, 1997 Graduate*



“Attending Kentwood Public Schools helped to create the person I am today. I could not think of a better place to have gone to school with so many varied opportunities from student council to marching band, to sports, and in an environment that, unlike most schools, actually mirrors the real world. Being surrounded by so many people from so many different types of backgrounds made the transition from high school to college and beyond seem like there was not even a transition at all.”

— *Vincent Carbone, 2002 Graduate*



“My experience in education, diversity, and athletics at East Kentwood prepared me for the trials of a top level engineering college. The high level of education that I received has allowed me to excel in the classroom. The lessons I learned through athletics and the diversity at East Kentwood have given me the skills needed to succeed in life.”

— *Adam Kirn, 2004 Graduate*



“Attending Kentwood Public Schools has prepared me socially for the real world. The diversity of the student body taught me how to communicate with individuals of different cultural backgrounds. The numerous after-school activities available allowed me to be an active member of this community.”

— *Stephanie Cao, 2006 Graduate*



“My educational experience through Kentwood School System is one I will never regret or forget. Academically, the teachers and programs have pushed me to put forth my best effort so that I can learn and attain as much as possible. Athletically, I had a successful experience as a three-sport athlete playing softball, volleyball, and basketball. I was ready and motivated to play sports in college. I have a lot of Falcon pride!”

— *Katie Horvath, 2002 Graduate*



“To me East Kentwood was more than a high school experience. It was an enriching environment full of respect, sense of community, and all that education has to offer. The teachers prepare you for ‘the real world’ by bringing education to your level and making it captivating. I am at the University of Colorado at Boulder now and its all because of excellent teachers, immense opportunities, and a diverse atmosphere full of fun and personal growth. It is because of East Kentwood that I am now on my way to becoming a teacher as well so I can give back to my community what East Kentwood gave to me.”

— *Cassie Mohrfeld, 2004 Graduate*



“I often smile when I look back on my high school years, thinking of all the extracurricular activities I was involved in and the challenging AP classes that I took. East Kentwood had so many opportunities for students to get involved, and numerous college level classes for us to take. I am so thankful I attended a high school that allowed me to express myself with classes and activities that interested me. The experiences gained through participation in DECA at the regional, state and national levels has helped me build a successful website design firm. The discipline formed by being involved in one of the state's largest marching bands has overflowed into my school work and is evident in the way I am managing my time. East Kentwood more than prepared me for college, it gave me the skills needed to succeed and pursue my dream of becoming a doctor.”

— *David Alan Paul, 2006 Graduate*



“After graduating from East Kentwood in 2004, I felt that the school overall prepared me for college and my future. I am now attending the United States Air Force Academy and have found that Kentwood prepared me due to the well-rounded culture that we are brought up in. We have faced many different situations that have made us better people and more responsible to step up in the real world unlike those who graduated from a small school. The classes were tough and helped me academically prepare with my study habits in college/academy. East Kentwood made me a better person; I am glad and proud to say that I graduated from East Kentwood High School.”

— *Cadet Third Class Ashley Alexander, 2004 Graduate*



“I feel that East Kentwood High School aided and prepared me for my future. With all of the classes offered, I was able to test out different fields and directions before I graduated. I had great, influential, and inspiring Spanish teachers who encouraged and continue to support me with my future career as a teacher. Probably the most important and beneficial aspect of East Kentwood High School is the diversity. Schools around the city were not as fortunate to have a student body from all around the world. This, I strongly feel, opened my eyes to new cultures and the real world (which is more than just black and white.)”

— *Doren Belfer, 2003 Graduate*



“Kentwood Public Schools staff always cared about students. From my second-grade teacher, Mrs. Stanley, to my high school counselor, Mr. Van Pernis, everyone cared about my future success. Even when times got tough, KPS staff always showed their desire to make our society better by preparing me for the future. It's no wonder Kentwood Public Schools has received numerous Blue Ribbons, Governor's Cups, and other awards.”

— *Scott Urbanowski, 2005 Graduate*



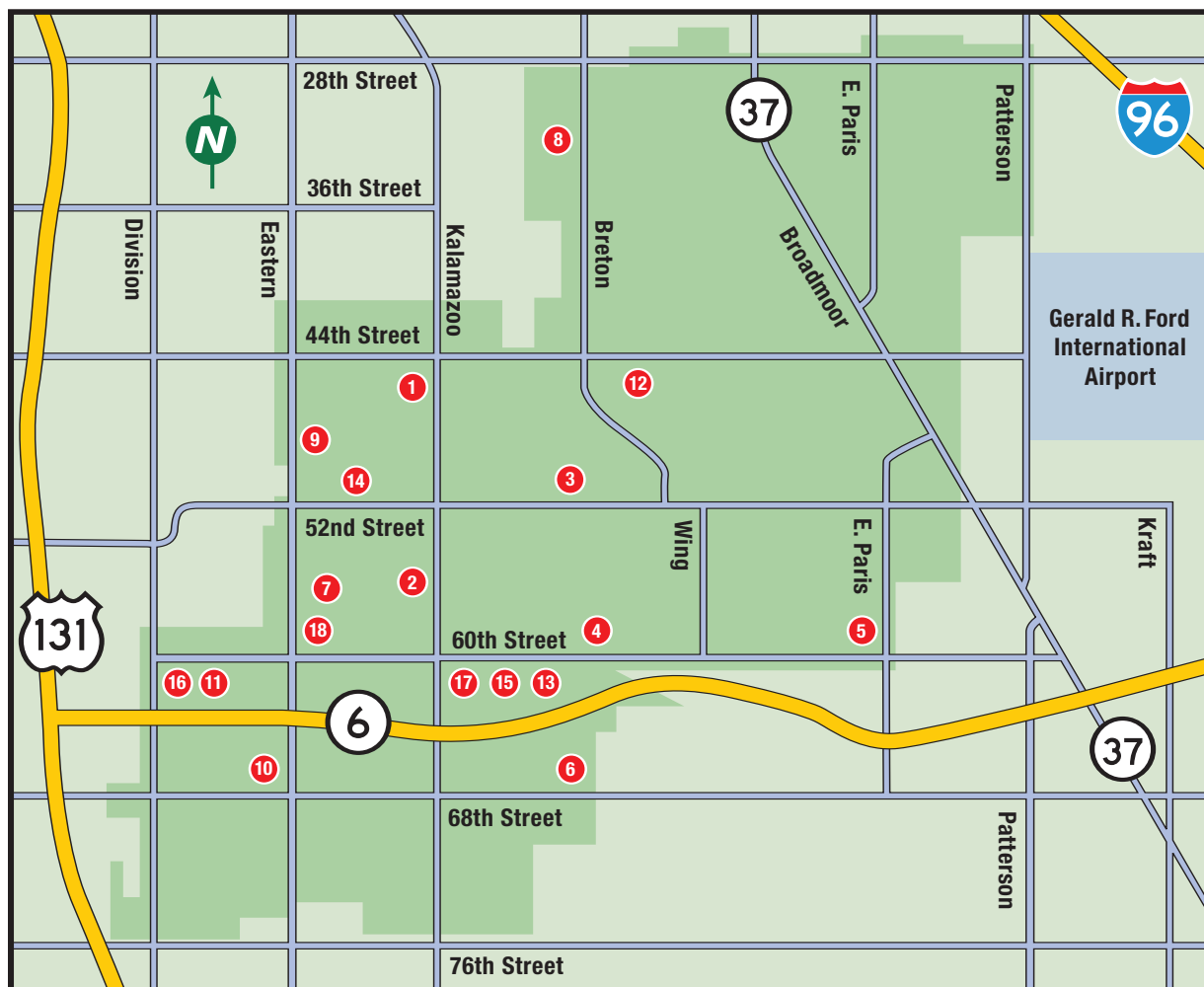
“I feel very fortunate to have attended school in the Kentwood Public School District. It prepared me immensely for my future career in teaching. They have excellent teachers K-12 and tremendous athletic programs. It's a great day to be a Falcon!”

— *Kathy Herman, 2005 Graduate*





# Kentwood Public Schools District Map



1 Bowen Elementary .....455-5220 4483 Kalamazoo SE	10 Southwood Elementary .....455-7230 630 66th SE
2 Brookwood Elementary .....455-0030 5465 Kalamazoo SE	11 Townline Elementary .....538-4120 100 60th SE
3 Challenger Elementary .....698-2524 2475 52nd SE	12 Crestwood Middle .....455-1200 2674 44th SE
4 Discovery Elementary.....871-1080 2461 60th SE	13 Pinewood Middle .....455-1224 2100 60th SE
5 Endeavor Elementary .....554-5241 5757 East Paris SE	14 Valleywood Middle .....538-7670 1110 50th SE
6 Explorer Elementary .....554-0302 2307 68th SE	15 East Kentwood Freshman Campus.....698-9292 6170 Valley Lane SE
7 Glenwood Elementary.....455-2510 912 Silverleaf SE	16 Crossroads Alternative High School.....261-6166 Community Education 28 60th SE
8 Hamilton Elementary .....245-2203 3303 Breton SE	17 East Kentwood High School .....698-6700 6230 Kalamazoo SE
9 Meadowlawn Elementary .....534-4608 4939 Burgis SE	18 Kentwood Administration Building .....455-4400 5820 Eastern SE



# Board of Education

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(Term expires 2010)



**Dave Schultz**  
Vice President  
(Term expires 2008)



**Bill J. Joseph**  
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(Term expires 2011)



**Mimi Madden**  
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(Term expires 2011)



**Betsy Melton**  
Trustee  
(Term expires 2009)



**Steve Dabrowski**  
Treasurer  
(Term expires 2008)



**Sandi Talbott**  
Trustee  
(Term expires 2010)



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