

June 3, 2026

Dear Kentwood Public Schools Families,

As the 2025-26 school year winds to a close, we wanted to take a moment to recap the work our district has been doing in the area of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and look ahead to opportunities we are planning for the upcoming school year.

Over the past two school years, a team of educators and district leaders has been engaged in learning, planning, and collaboration around the role of AI in education. As advancements in AI continue to rapidly shape our world, our goal has been to approach this work thoughtfully and intentionally, **supporting student learning while keeping human relationships, connection, and critical thinking at the center of everything we do.**

We believe AI can be used intentionally to spark curiosity, foster creativity, deepen critical thinking, and support personalized learning experiences for students. At the same time, we understand that perspectives on AI vary widely, and families, students, and staff may have different comfort levels, questions, or concerns about its role in education. Kentwood Public Schools remains committed to moving forward transparently and with continuous input from our community.

Over the past two years, our work in this area has included:

- **Drafting a District AI Guide** to provide clear direction and expectations for staff and students regarding AI use.
- **Launching an AI Early Adopter Teacher Cohort** to explore tools and resources that support teaching, learning, communication, and productivity.
- **Collaborating within a Local Multi-School District AI Hub** to support the development and implementation of our district's AI efforts.
- **Providing Professional Learning** opportunities for staff focused on responsible and effective AI use.
- **Gathering Community Feedback** through a districtwide survey, town halls and focus groups.

We know many students are already using AI tools outside of school. Rather than leaving them to navigate this rapidly changing technology on their own, we believe schools have a responsibility to help students learn to use these tools effectively, critically, and responsibly.

Beginning Fall 2026

Looking ahead, one of our primary goals will be building a strong foundational understanding of AI for students, staff, and families. **To support this effort, secondary**

students will have access to specific, vetted AI tools on district provided devices (e.g. KPS Chromebooks):

- **Young Fives–6th Grade Students:** Will not have direct AI tool access.
- **7th–8th Grade Students:** Will have access to [NotebookLM](#).
- **9th–12th Grade Students:** Will have access to [NotebookLM](#) and [Gemini for Education](#).

These platforms were selected in part because of the robust student privacy protections and age-appropriate safeguards they provide. Furthermore, teachers will maintain the ability to limit or deny access to these tools during class time, and clear usage expectations will be communicated.

Because the landscape of AI is shifting rapidly, we are committed to remaining flexible and adapting our approach as the technology evolves and we continue to learn and gather feedback from our community. We will also provide ongoing professional development to support our staff throughout this process.

As we deepen this work, we want to ensure that our families, students, and staff remain partners in the process. To support that partnership, we have created the following email address where you can share questions, feedback, and input: ai@kentwoodps.org.

If you are interested in learning more about Artificial Intelligence, we encourage you to explore the resources listed below:

[KPS AI Guide](#)
[Navigating AI in Schools](#)
[AI Literacy Toolkit for Families](#)
[Family Guide to AI](#)
[Guardians Guide to AI](#)

Together, we remain committed to a thoughtful, balanced, and student-centered approach to Artificial Intelligence—one that helps prepare our students to be empowered learners and responsible citizens in the world of today and tomorrow.

Thank you for partnering with us on this journey.

Sincerely,

Bré Bartels
Executive Director of Secondary Education

Carrie Tellerico
Executive Director of Elementary Education

Sunil Joy
Executive Director of Strategy & Innovation

Brooke Storms
Instructional Technology Coordinator