



KENTFIELD VIEW

DIVERSITY | INSPIRATION | CONNECTION

Back-to-School 2024-2025

Our Core Beliefs:

Our diversity is an asset and a promise.

Our culture of bold thinking inspires teachers and students.

Community connections are vital.

Who We Are:

The Kentfield School District provides a rich, high-quality education in a learning environment that is physically and emotionally safe for all students and teachers.

Social-emotional learning and character development are valued alongside academics.

Superintendent Update

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the final weeks of the summer season.

It is a great honor and privilege to serve the Kentfield-Greenbrae community as superintendent of the Kentfield School District (KSD). I take pride in our 1,058 Bacich and Kent students and am excited to continue working alongside our dedicated staff and school board to ensure every child receives an exceptional education. Together, we have overcome unique challenges, celebrated successes, and collaborated to provide our children with rigorous academics while supporting their social-emotional development.

Looking ahead, we have identified key initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year including:

- Launching a literacy curriculum pilot at Bacich Elementary School to support our transition to a structured literacy approach. Structured literacy provides our students with essential foundational skills necessary to promote reading success for all students.
- Advancing Kent Middle School's commitment to Standards-Based Feedback, which offers clear and specific guidance to students and families empowering children to take agency in their learning while increasing opportunities for academic rigor and challenge in essential skills.
- Prioritizing our facilities to create an optimal learning environment where essential functions are addressed to sustain daily operations. Our focus is to offer a safe school setting where classrooms and shared spaces are inviting and comfortable for learning and engaging with peers.
- Evaluating our strategic plan/LCAP goals and actions through an equity lens to analyze how our district systems and structures impact student progress and community connectedness.

These activities represent just a small sampling of our intentions for the 2024-2025 school year.

With steady focus and thoughtful planning, we have built a strong foundation for a positive year ahead filled with joyful learning and meaningful connections. Whether it's through school assemblies, exploring new reading strategies and science theories, joining a new lunch club, or making new friends, the year ahead promises to be filled with excitement, challenge, and growth!

I extend my sincere gratitude to the entire Kentfield-Greenbrae community for your unwavering support and belief in our schools. Your dedication and commitment to our educational community truly make KSD a special place!



Superintendent Raquel Rose

Attendance Success

Research has shown that there is a strong connection between school attendance and academic success and that the negative impact of poor attendance can manifest early in a student's academic career. Kentfield School District, along with schools across the nation, saw a significant increase in chronic absenteeism following the pandemic. During the 2022-2023 school year, despite the return to normal school hours and activities, chronic absenteeism in Kentfield School District increased over the prior year.



In order to address this critical issue, district staff implemented a new attendance protocol for the 2023-2024 school year. The new protocol, which was announced district-wide at the start of the school year, provides for increased communication with families when absences reach specified levels, and includes letters, phone outreach, and meetings between administrators and parents. As a result of the new protocol, attendance improved significantly in 2023-2024 over the prior year. During the first

three months following implementation, chronic absenteeism was reduced by almost 50% over the same period during the prior year.

We are proud of this accomplishment and intend to continue to proactively monitor and intervene when or if issues of chronic absenteeism to arise.



Kent Named Distinguished School

The California Department of Education (CDE) selected Kent Middle School for the prestigious 2024 California Distinguished Schools Program. This award recognizes Kent's exceptional student performance based on achieving exemplary performance in English language arts and math.

KSD AT-A-GLANCE*	
Students	
Bacich	546
Kent	512
Certificated Staff	
Bacich	37 FTE
Kent	38.9 FTE
District Office	1.4 FTE
Classified Staff	
Bacich	14.165 FTE
Kent	11.995 FTE
District Office	6.12 FTE
*2023-2024 End-of-Year Data FTE = Full Time Equivalent	

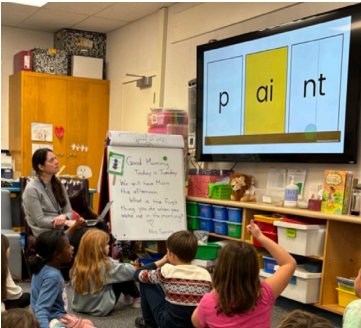
Bacich Elementary School



Principal Maria Martin

Bacich Elementary School is a dynamic school community where students are provided opportunities to develop a growth mindset and where inclusivity, connection, empathy, and kindness are central values. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to share some exciting updates from our recent school year as well as initiatives that will shape our educational journey for the 2024-2025 school year.

At Bacich, we believe that every student is unique, with individual strengths, needs, and learning styles. As a result, we maintain a strong emphasis on differentiated learning. At each grade level, students engage in dedicated differentiated learning time. The program, What I Need (WIN) Time, is a regular time when students

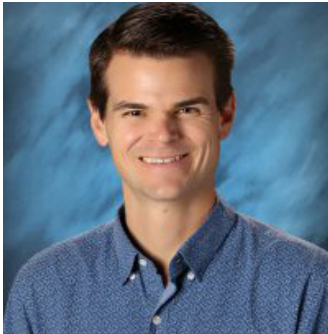


work in groups on targeted skills, ensuring that each child can achieve their full potential. By providing a variety of learning opportunities based on a student's specific areas of need, we aim to engage and challenge every child in meaningful ways.

Recognizing the importance of social-emotional learning (SEL) in our students' overall development, we introduced a new SEL curriculum this past year, The Toolbox Project. This program is designed to equip our students with tools to build resilience, self-mastery, and empathy for themselves and others. By fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment, we help our students manage their own emotional, social, and academic success.

We are committed to providing a well-rounded education to our elementary-age students. These initiatives are part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the learning experiences of all our Bacich students. We are confident that these programs will not only enrich their academic journey but also support their emotional and social growth. I am grateful and honored to continue to serve our school community, and I look forward to a positive year ahead.

Kent Middle School



Principal Grant Althouse

At Kent Middle School, we strive to prepare socially conscious students equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to enhance their communities and contribute to this rapidly changing world. Our students work closely with each other, their teachers, school staff, and their families to reach high to achieve their fullest academic, social, and creative potential. Our Falcon Family takes pride in the varied backgrounds, languages, interests, passions, and identities that make up our incredible student body.

Kent educators develop a challenging and engaging curriculum that nurtures the character, confidence, intellect, empathy, and curiosity of all students while developing their communication, literacy, and numeracy. Kent students learn with purpose to meet and exceed grade-level expectations and learning targets. Our teachers and staff work daily to provide meaningful feedback for learning on essential learning habits of collaboration, community-mindedness, engagement, independence, organization, and work completion.

Beyond academics, Kent Falcons fly high as they discover many interests and passions at school. Our enrichment program offers stimulating classes like woodshop, art, poetry, book clubs, broadcast journalism, drama, life skills, social action, and more! Students play in band, orchestra, and choral ensembles of varying skill levels in our exceptional music program. Kent's athletic program supports all students in developing strength and endurance and also allows them



to represent their school through flag football, basketball, volleyball, track, and golf teams. Students have many opportunities to build their leadership capacity through serving on our Student Leadership Board, working as an 8th Grade WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leader, contributing to SLAM! (Student Led Antiracism Movement), or serving as a student representative on site and/or district-level committees.



California Secretary of Education Tony Thurmond declared Kent Middle School a 2024 California Distinguished School, one of only three secondary schools in Marin County to earn this honorable distinction. We are exceedingly proud of our students and staff for the countless contributions that have led to earning this unique recognition, which was awarded based on demonstrating exceptional student performance.

We are honored by this recognition of the extraordinary learning environment Kent provides for middle school students in our Kentfield and Greenbrae communities.

Facility Upgrades

Kentfield School District (KSD) strives to provide every student with a high-quality, well-rounded education that prepares them for success in high school, college, and future careers.

Experts Identify Needed Repairs & Upgrades

However, school facilities at Bacich Elementary School and Kent Middle School are in need of repairs and upgrades. KSD has worked with school facility experts, architects, and engineers to assess the condition of all school facilities and identify needed repairs and improvements.

For example, aging plumbing at local schools may impact the ability to maintain safe drinking water, while deteriorating restrooms need renovation. Roofs are reaching the end of their expected lifespan and need to be replaced due to leaks. Campus fencing and other security improvements are needed to protect student safety and well-being.



Curriculum Pilots

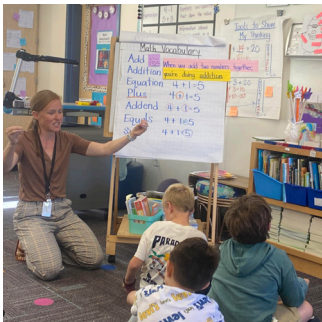
In the year ahead, Bacich Elementary School will launch curriculum pilots in mathematics and literacy. A key benefit of piloting a new curriculum is collecting data and feedback in real time with real students to help evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the instructional design.

Literacy Pilot

The literacy pilot utilizes a structured literacy curriculum to teach reading, which provides our students with the foundational skills necessary for reading success and ensures that all children become confident and proficient readers. This evidence-based approach emphasizes the systematic teaching of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Our dedicated and talented teachers have engaged in a variety of professional development workshops this past school year and are eager to pilot a new curriculum during the 2024-25 school year.

Math Pilot

Bacich Elementary School will continue the math pilot that was started this past school year. The goal of the pilot is to identify a math curriculum aligned with the new California Mathematics Framework. By focusing on the “big ideas” of mathematics and an inquiry-based approach, we look forward to strengthening our mathematics instruction resulting in higher and more equitable achievement in math for all Bacich students.



Bond Measure

Because the State does not provide dedicated or adequate funding for facility repairs, these improvements must be funded locally. The Board of Trustees intends to place a bond measure of up to \$48 million on the November 5, 2024 ballot to fund needed repairs and upgrades. The measure would cost property owners up to \$29 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value).

Funds Support Repairs & Upgrades

All funds from a local bond measure could only be used to repair and upgrade Bacich Elementary School and Kent Middle School. No funds could be taken away by the State or used for administrator salaries. All funds would be subject to strict fiscal accountability protections including an independent oversight committee, annual audits, and public disclosure of all spending.

Questions & Feedback

If you have questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact KSD Superintendent Raquel Rose at rose@kentfieldschools.org or 415-458-5130.

School Board Information

Contact Details
Agendas/Minutes
Resolutions/Policies

www.kentfieldschools.org
click “School Board”

Meeting Schedule:

Typically, every second
Tuesday of the month
at 5 p.m. in the
Kent Middle School Library.
All are welcome to attend.

Safe Routes to School



The Kentfield School District encourages all families to actively participate in our nationally recognized KSD Safe Routes to School program. This neighborhood-focused initiative advocates for green travel alternatives and addresses traffic safety at our schools. The program aims to offer students safer and greener alternatives to get to and from school.

Our dedicated team of parent Neighborhood Captains will provide you with suggested safe route maps to our schools with essential safety tips customized by neighborhood. They will also advocate for traffic safety concerns on behalf of the families in your neighborhood.

Please consider walking or biking with your children to school. This will reduce traffic congestion around our schools, allow you to spend quality time with your children, and give them some healthful exercise before school so they arrive alert and ready to learn.

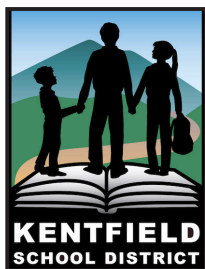
NEIGHBORHOOD ROUTES & CAPTAINS

Greenbrae, Murray Park, Kent Woodlands, Kentfield
Firehouse, Laurel Grove, Berens

www.kentfieldschools.org/about-us/emergencies-and-safety/safe-routes-school

Program Coordinators

Jennifer Mariska, jenn.mariska@gmail.com & Erin Kahn, erinr Kahn@gmail.com



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Residential Customer

Kentfield School District educates 1,058 students in Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade at Bacich Elementary School and Kent Middle School. Our teachers offer innovative, award-winning programs that engage our students' creativity, character, and curiosity, and empower them to reach high, work hard, and be kind.

kentfieldschools.org kickschools.org kspta.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Discover more events at www.kentfieldschools.org

AUGUST 2024		SEPTEMBER 2024	
19	Bacich KSPTA New Family Welcome, 5:30-6 p.m.	2	Labor Day, no school
	Bacich TK/Kindergarten Back to School Night, 6-7 p.m. (parents and guardians only)	3	Bacich School Picture Day District English Language Advisory Committee, 5-6:30 p.m.
21	First Day of School	10	School Board Meeting, 5 p.m.
	Bacich KSPTA Back to School Coffee, 8:15 a.m.	29	KIK Family Fun Day, 10-3 p.m.
22	Kent Back to School Night, 6-8 p.m. (0 period music class begins at 5:45 p.m.)	<i>Dates and times subject to change. Please check the calendar at www.kentfieldschools.org for the most current information.</i>	
23	Kent KSPTA Back to School Coffee, 8:45 a.m.		
	Kent School Picture Day		
27	School Board Meeting, 5 p.m.		
28	Bacich Grades 1-4 Back to School Night, 6-7 p.m. (parents and guardians only)		

Thanks to Our Partners!

