



Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency

The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency provides hundreds of educational programs and services to students, educators, parents and the community.

Kalamazoo RESA Website: www.kresa.org

Miss Deaf USA teaches healthy lessons to students in Kalamazoo RESA's hearing impaired program



Michelle Koplitz, Miss Deaf USA, visited students in Kalamazoo RESA's hearing impaired program on April 15 at Woodland Elementary School in Portage. She taught the students about taking care of their bodies

and living a healthy lifestyle. During the lesson, Koplitz discussed healthy activities, healthy eating habits and led the students in a yoga lesson.

Crowned Miss Deaf USA in April 2010, the

26-year-old Wisconsin native aims to promote health within the deaf and hard-of-hearing community through improving access to health information and greater exposure to healthy lifestyle activities.

"I try to encourage young deaf students to start becoming aware of their own bodies and their own health care, how their bodies work, how to be healthy, because later, as they grow up they have to take care of themselves," Koplitz said.

While in Michigan, Koplitz also traveled to Kalamazoo RESA's hearing impaired programs at Portage Central High School and Woods Lake Elementary in Kalamazoo.

While at Portage Central, Koplitz met with deaf and hard-of-hearing students to talk about their roles as future leaders in the deaf community and to

discuss the importance of pursuing a college education.

As a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Koplitz shared her personal stories and experiences with the students and helped show them the possibilities available for their futures.

Kalamazoo RESA's program for students with hearing impairments consists of teacher consultants and classroom teachers who plan, coordinate, and implement services for hearing-impaired students within Kalamazoo RESA's service area in conjunction with sign language interpreters, an educational audiologist and a speech therapist. They work with deaf and hard-of-hearing students, their families and school personnel in providing appropriate services, materials and equipment.



Kalamazoo RESA's Education for Employment (EFE) program and Davenport University hosted a business competition on May 13 at Davenport's campus in Kalamazoo for more than 150 high school students. It featured a business wear fashion show presented by students, individual and team competitions in business skills, a Jeopardy contest and a commercial competition. JCPenney's provided clothing for the fashion show.

Grant helps grow Juvenile Home Schools gardens

A recent grant from State Farm Insurance Company will help students and staff at the Juvenile Home Schools Youth Center School continue to grow a project that combines gardening and the classroom.

Science teacher Jaymie Voss and life skills teacher Camila Stewart collaborated to educate students and increase literacy through a gardening experience that was also a service-learning project for students during the 2009-2010 school year.

State Farm awarded a \$2,000 grant to purchase equipment and materials for indoor and outdoor gardens at the school. The funding will help the project to grow in the future.

"This project will provide a powerful educational opportunity for the students in our school to nurture living things in a way that many have never experienced," said Juvenile Home Schools Principal Tina Atkins. "It also has the power to integrate service learning with literacy in a way that benefits our school community."

Star Power rally supports early childhood issues

Representatives from the Great Start Collaborative of Kalamazoo County and community members attended a May 19 rally in Lansing to share with state lawmakers how the state's early childhood investment is critical to Michigan's economic future.

The Star Power event was organized by Michigan's Early Childhood Investment Corporation. The Great Start Collaborative's mission is to develop a strategic plan for Michigan's early childhood system of programs, services, and supports for all children from birth to age 5.

More than 4,300 parents, children and advocates from across the state attended the event.

After a morning parade and program recognizing champions of early childhood investment on the Capitol steps, participants had the opportunity to meet with their state representatives and senators.

EFA awards arts scholarships to students in Kalamazoo County

Kalamazoo RESA's Education for the Arts (EFA) program awarded \$104,321 in scholarships for 2011-2012 to students throughout Kalamazoo County.

A total of \$84,321 in Irving S. Gilmore Student Arts Scholarships was awarded to students in grades K-12 to support their artistic explorations and studies. Students may use funds for artistic experiences such as private music and voice lessons, arts camps or instrument rental.

Irving S. Gilmore Student Artistic Equipment Scholarships totaling \$20,000 will provide students in grades 6-12 an opportunity to obtain high-quality artistic equipment, such as cameras, computers and instruments, to further their studies.

This is the 14th consecutive year that Education for the Arts, through funding from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, has offered scholarships to students in Kalamazoo County.



WoodsEdge Learning Center held its annual prom dance on May 13 in the school's cafeteria. Students and their families enjoyed music, dancing and refreshments.

Kalamazoo RESA Foundation honors students with scholarships

The Kalamazoo RESA Foundation awarded scholarships to 70 students from throughout Kalamazoo County at an awards breakfast on May 12.

The Kalamazoo RESA Foundation, a nonprofit organization, works to support Kalamazoo RESA initiatives that enhance excellence for regular education, at-risk, special need, vocational, and fine and performing arts students throughout Kalamazoo County.

The foundation makes a positive impact on the lives of more than 34,000 students and educators each year through scholarships, grants and other innovative efforts. The Kalamazoo RESA Foundation Board of Trustees includes representatives from communities and organizations throughout Kalamazoo County.

Forty-three high school seniors and 27 college students received scholarships in 2011 totaling \$29,500.



Students and staff at Valley Center School participated in activities on April 22 in celebration of Earth Day. Projects included planting seedlings, creating planters from recycled plastic bottles and making bird feeders using pinecones and peanut butter.



Education for the Arts (EFA):
250-9244

Education for Employment (EFE):
250-9300

Great Start/Early Childhood Programs:
488-7599

Hearing/Visually Impaired Services:
250-9323

Instructional Services:
250-9210

Juvenile Home Schools Intensive Learning Center: 385-8523
Youth Center School: 385-8549

Lakeside School
381-0353

Preprimary Evaluation Team (PET):
373-3263

Regional Educational Media Center (REMC 12): 250-9350

Service Center:
250-9200

Special Education:
250-9323

Valley Center School:
388-9494

WoodsEdge Learning Center:
250-9400

Young Adult Program (YAP):
488-9601

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) Employment Services/
Michigan Works!: 383-2536
Kalamazoo: 349-9676
Three Rivers: 269-273-2717