



Communities In Schools®

Kalamazoo

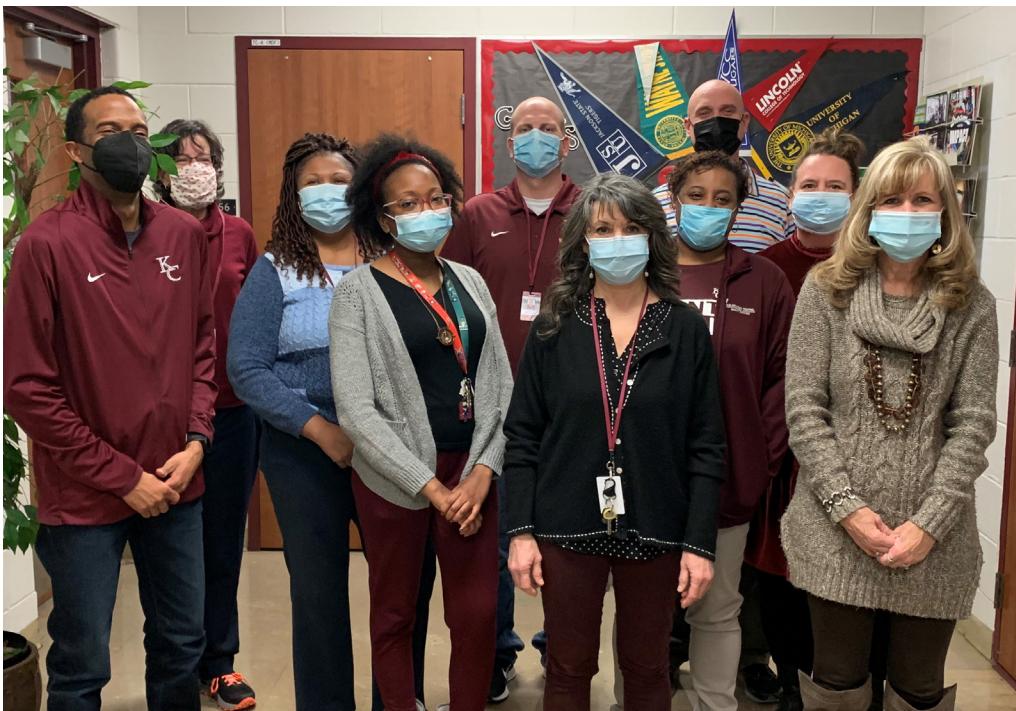
CIS QUARTERLY - 02/2022

Dream of a Team

CIS and KPS work as one for kids at Kalamazoo Central High School

The CIS model of integrated student supports has long been an important tool for this community and Kalamazoo Public Schools, along with their school leaders and teachers concerned with achievement gaps, attendance, behavior, and overall student well-being. For over twenty years at Kalamazoo Central, CIS and KPS have been working together with the community to empower students to stay in school and achieve in life.

Principal Valerie Boggan says, "Communities In Schools has provided an invaluable service to students and families at Kalamazoo Central High School. We have been blessed with a rich history of strong CIS Coordinators passionate about serving children. They have goals and objectives, but they also listen to my vision. They listen to teachers, campus safety officers, counselors, and other administrators to ensure that together we can serve the whole child. New programs have been developed, innovative ways of helping children and families are implemented, and they are an intricate part of our Giant Nation. I wouldn't want to do this job without having Communities In School in our buildings. Their services and presence make a difference to students, families, and staff."



From left to right: Dean of Students Brandon Lukes, CIS Site Coordinator Jenn Miner, CIS Success Coach Whitni Roden, CIS Re-Engagement Coordinator Breanne Stokes, 504 Coordinator Michael Schrum, School Psychologist Lori Morcom, Counselor Kelly Fullerton, Counselor Randen Kroes, Counselor Jen Garrison, and Counselor Judi Mentzer.

DID YOU KNOW?

This year alone, this collaborative effort at Kalamazoo Central has been supporting CIS partnerships and initiatives like the Black Student Union, Centrica Care Navigators (formerly Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan), Ubuntu Therapy, Prevention Works, National Society of Black Engineers, WMU School of Social Work, Clinical Social Worker Kristin Zimmerman, the Women's Group, Student-Peer Mentoring, and CIS volunteers like Keith Muzslay, Matt Cavalli, Dan Duncan, James Devers, and Brenden Groggel. These partners and individuals offer a range of supports and services such as grief groups, one-on-one tutoring, push-in tutoring (within the classroom setting), life skills and resilience training, mental health counseling, mentoring, and more.

As Principal Boggan has tasked Kalamazoo Central's Dean of Students Brandon Lukes to serve as a key school leader in supporting CIS's work in this high school that serves over 1,700 students, we decided to take a deeper dive with Mr. Lukes as to what this collaboration looks like at Kalamazoo Central. [To learn more about Mr. Brandon Lukes, check out our upcoming post on the CIS blog, *Ask Me About My 12,000 Kids.*]

Continue reading on page 3.

News and CIS of Kalamazoo Updates

- **March 25 – April 1:** Spring Break. The CIS office will be closed during this time period.
- **April** is National Volunteer Month. Thank you to all the CIS volunteers who support our students! *Bring a smile to a volunteer's face by honoring them as a champion this year! See inside for details.*
- **Honor a champion in your life** during this year's Champs Celebration. The deadline is April 21, 2022. See inside for details.
- **Save the date:** the 15th Annual Champs Celebration is scheduled for April 28th, 2022. The event will be live streamed. Details are forthcoming.

Student Spotlight



Terrion Pratt

5th grader – Woods Lake Elementary School

What is your favorite part of school? Playing basketball in the gym and eating lunch with Ms. Blaec Arevalo [Woods Lake Elementary School site coordinator].

How has CIS helped you? A lot. I have been working with her since second grade.

How would you describe your site coordinator in one word? Great!



Paris Grayson

5th grader – Lincoln Elementary School

What is your favorite part of school? Seeing my friends.

How has CIS helped you? Tutoring, schools supplies, winter boots, gloves, and things like that.

How would you describe your site coordinator in one word? Mr. Joseph Burrell is nice.

Thank you

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo Site Coordinator Missy Best and Kalamazoo Public Schools Librarian Amanda White facilitate a tutor lab in the school's library.

With the support of volunteers, any student who attends Milwood Magnet Middle School is able to receive extra academic support in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Thank you to the many volunteers who show up for students and support with homework help after school!



Volunteer and WMU Medallion Scholar Lauren Kowell working with a student during tutor lab.

Jeff Poliak, a CIS volunteer, meeting with students to provide extra homework help after school.

We are excited to announce that this year's Champs Celebration will live stream on April 28th, 2022!

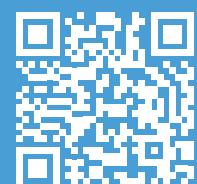
The Champs celebration is an occasion to reflect on those who have made an impact on the lives of children. Who is a champion in your life? A former teacher or student? Family member or friend? Trusted advisor?

There are champions all around and we want to celebrate them! In addition to those nominated and selected for an award during Champs, CIS is delighted to provide the backdrop for you to honor a champion in your life by making a donation in their honor. By doing so, you will warm their heart and create a ripple effect of kindness and goodwill.

To learn more about how you can participate, visit: ciskalamazoo.org/honor-a-champion or scan the QR code below.

The deadline is April 21st to be included in this year's Champs celebration.

Honor your champion



Dream of a team

CONTINUED

Our CIS site staff based at Kalamazoo Central say that you and your team of counselors, along with the school psychologist, and 504 coordinator have been critical to the successful implementation of the CIS model within Kalamazoo Central. What is one of the factors that account for this strong working relationship?

We really allow CIS to be immersed in our school culture. CIS is invited to all of our meetings so they are immersed in our school. We don't operate as separate teams. There is no CIS separate from KPS. CIS is what we do at Central. It's just part of our school community. And students don't necessarily separate CIS as something different and apart from our school.

CIS Site Coordinator Jenn Miner says that when it comes to all of the team members, you each have a good sense of humor and that is one thing that contributes to the positive and productive working relationship.

We have fun! Everyone can allow their personality to show and allow their personalities to be useful in our building. We try to come to this understanding that we all have gifts and abilities and we can be effective and work collaboratively when we allow those gifts and abilities to function.

As I strive for us to work very intentionally, we meet two times a month where we are all at the table—the 504 coordinator, school psychologist, CIS staff, and counselors. We take a look to see where we are at with serving our students. What are we doing well? What are our areas we need to improve? And everyone gives updates from their areas, including CIS. It's an opportunity to figure out just how our

work and any new initiatives may intersect. Are we duplicating efforts? Does it make sense to somehow merge our efforts? In some cases, we decide that instead of doing something solo, it makes more sense to marry our efforts as we move forward in serving students.

As you know, the CIS model of integrated students supports is a school-based approach to promoting students' academic success by securing and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement. What are your thoughts about this model? How do you see it supporting students?

The model is awesome. And I have to give kudos to Principal Boggan and the deans who proceeded me. I didn't have to create this model or the collaborative partnerships that are part of it. It was already fully established and integrated into what we do at Central when I arrived. Principal Boggan and those who came before paved the way for this model to be an integral and thriving part of our school culture.

...I value this model because it really strengthens the relationship between school and community. We've been able to collectively help students and families we might otherwise not have been able to reach thanks to the assistance, guidance, and structure of the CIS model. That's because there are things that CIS can focus on and be intentional about providing and connecting students to certain supports that we as a school can't do because of time and other responsibilities we have to attend to during the school day.

CIS staff here—our Site Coordinator Jenn Miner, CIS Success Coach Whithni Roden, and Re-engagement Coordinator Breanne Stokes —can fully dedicate themselves to executing those meaningful pieces that school staff cannot completely focus on during the school day. For me, that's the most beautiful part of the model, that CIS can step in to bridge the gaps to support our families and students.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

WMU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Long-time partner, the WMU School of Social Work has been instrumental in supporting the work of our site coordinators in KPS buildings. The social work interns assist with coordinating and administering schoolwide supports like basic needs supplies and health supports, as well as supporting the goals of individual students, working with them individually and/or in small groups.

While we support the interns with hands-on experience, the efforts of their work and critical thinking allow our site coordinators to deepen and extend the supports they themselves provide to students. Currently, we work with 11 amazing WMU School of Social Work interns!



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Health and Human Services
School of Social Work



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From our executive director

Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo (CIS) recognizes that the work of supporting children is like a tapestry made up many different colors of thread that is tightly bound together and expertly crafted by artisans into patterns that result in beautiful works of art.

The multi-colored threads represent the diversity of people that work for and with CIS to bring resources to kids. People of different races, socio-economic status, social capital, gender identities, faiths and abilities work in roles like staff, community partners, service providers, funders, volunteers and advocates to make sure kids get what they need to succeed.

We stay bound together by genuine collaboration that reduces duplication of efforts, increases organizational efficiency and maximizes the impact of our community partners – which ultimately positions our children to thrive. Resources that flow to CIS often flow through CIS to also support the service providers that ultimately benefit our children.

CIS Site Coordinators (daytime and afterschool) are the artisans that weave together people and services to ensure that the right resources reach the right kids at the right time. Using a combination of science and art, the Site Coordinators deliver services that correspond to needs of individual students and school environments.

We are proud to say that our work has resulted in beautiful outcomes for Kalamazoo's children over the years. There are countless stories of CIS being the difference maker in the lives of children and their families.

Many thanks to those that support CIS! Without the gifts, expertise, knowledge, passion and time that you contribute, CIS could not positively impact thousands of children annually during the school day, afterschool, and throughout summer.

We look forward to continuing to build upon what we have done together to eliminate barriers for kids and to prepare them to succeed in school and in life.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Drury".

VOLUNTEER

Change a child's life,
and yours as well!



DONATE

Invest in the future of our community.
\$1,500 supports a student for a year.



If you believe in our efforts to ensure that ALL kids stay in school and achieve in life, please visit www.ciskalamazoo.org or call 269.337.1601 for more details on getting involved with CIS.

The work of Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo is supported by the Kalamazoo Public Schools, the City of Kalamazoo, the Michigan Department of Education (21st Century Community Learning Centers), local foundations, and donors like you.

Photos in this newsletter were taken by contributing CIS staff, unless otherwise noted.



Always In For Kids

Student success lasts a lifetime

Join our recurring giving program