

“We Prepare Children for Life”



Kentwood

Preparatory School



“We prepare Children for Life”



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Quotes About Kentwood

"Kentwood in general has been such a positive experience for him, there really are no words that can express our gratitude. He is very lucky to have such wonderful teachers as yourself and the rest of the teachers/staff helping him on a daily basis to be successful."

"You have counseled us when needed and have been a shoulder to cry on when needed. You have taken the time to work with Bradley during the year to develop his leadership skills. You will always have a special place in our hearts."

"I just want to express my appreciation one more time. Thanks for inviting me to attend your gathering. I was duly impressed with your kids and your program."

"Thank you for helping my son. Thank you for helping our family live more cohesively. Thank you for giving me hope and promise for Sean's future. I really can see him being a productive person in society who has an opportunity for happiness, love, and success just like the rest of us. It's all thanks to you and the systems you utilize and have in place."

"I have to tell you how wonderful you and your staff are. You all truly care about the students and them succeeding in life. I do not think that a parent can send their child to a better loving and nurturing place."

"I can't tell you how wonderful it is to see Matthew so happy. It was a joy for everyone to see how positive and caring the entire Kentwood staff is with the kids, parents, family and friends. I'm truly grateful that we found Kentwood!"

"I am so grateful to Kentwood and all of their extremely dedicated and talented staff for the peace of mind that has resulted from the Kentwood philosophy & solid teaching methods. I just wanted to thank you again for all you do for our children."

Kentwood Preparatory School Non-Discrimination Policy.

The School shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The School is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act. This commitment applies in all areas to students, Academic Personnel, Technical, Executive, Administrative, and Managerial Support staff, School Support Personnel System (USPS) personnel, and Other Personnel Services employees. The School realizes that it must continue to intensify its concern and devote itself to the elimination of conditions from which discrimination spring. In this respect the School accepts the responsibility for solving problems related to these matters. Accordingly, the School will continue to search for the most appropriate ways and means to provide an effective and enduring contribution to the improvement of these relationships.

Introduction

Children have many needs....love, understanding, belonging, and achievement. These needs must be met both at home and at school. There are many children who do not experience this positive cycle, and therefore cannot adjust to family, school, and social expectations and demands.

Schools have become synonymous with overcrowding, inadequate teaching resources, gangs, violence, drugs, and high dropout rates. Children and parents need an alternative choice for educating their children - that school is Kentwood.



'Kentwood students will be architects of the future, and not its victims.'



Kentwood Preparatory School is a fully accredited academic day program helping students discover their natural strengths and achieve their maximum potential. Kentwood caters to average to potentially bright children and adolescents, who for one reason or another are not being successful or as successful as they should be academically, socially and/or at home.

Many of the Kentwood's students have been diagnosed with ADHD, Aspergers, Autism, and related disorders. Some students do not have a diagnosis; they simply perform better in a smaller, safer, and more structured environment.



About Kentwood

Kentwood DOES NOT accept students who are emotionally disturbed, mentally retarded, or a danger to themselves or others. Many of our students have been diagnosed or misdiagnosed with ADHD, Aspergers, Autism, OCD, ODD etc. Our students do not function well in schools that are:

- Overcrowded
- Understaffed
- Inadequately equipped
- Have poorly trained staff

Who are the children we serve?

This is best explained using the following analogy.....

Think of Kentwood students as Ferraris.
Think of Kentwood systems as specialized Ferrari tools.
And Kentwood teachers as properly trained Ferrari mechanics.

Now think of the traditional schools and teachers as tools and mechanics designed and trained for General Motors cars. For the same reason you wouldn't send a Kentwood student to a traditional school, you wouldn't send your Ferrari to a General Motors mechanic.

Our children have some or all of the following characteristics:

- Are high functioning (potentially average to above average IQ)
- May not test well (IQ score may not be indicative of their intelligence)
- Are not being successful at home or in school despite their intelligence
- Do not, cannot or will not respond effectively
- Cannot stay focused or work independently
- Jump from subject to subject
- May come across as rude or oppositional
- Keep repeating the same behaviors
- Find the concept of time nonexistent
- Have high anxiety
- Cannot remember or need constant reminders
- Have poor organizational skills at home, school etc.
- Do or say things without thought of consequence

- Have poor cause/effect relationship skills
- Have learning or studying difficulties
- May have writing, grip, or penmanship problems
- Have difficulty relating to peers or making friends
- Are restless, fidgety or talk excessively
- Interrupt or blurt out inappropriate statements
- Have trouble buying into the family system
- Are egocentric and need instant gratification
- Have many individual needs

Our students:

Exhibit normal behaviors - the difference is frequency of the occurrence

- The frequency may be too high
- The frequency may be too low

Examples:

- Every 7 year old is going to get out of their seat without permission. Our 7 year olds get out of their seat 5 times as often.
- Every 10 year old is going to interrupt a conversation or say something inappropriate. Our 10 years old interrupt 5 times as often.
- Every teenager is going to be oppositional or defiant. Our teenagers are just 5 times as oppositional.

It is not the actual behavior that is the problem; it is the frequency of the behavior that is the problem. Kentwood's goal is to modify the frequency of the occurrence to an acceptable level. These changes can only be accomplished through **cognitive skill remediation.**



Program

Kentwood's program focuses on four distinct skill areas which are cornerstones of success for every child, adolescent, and adult.

- Academic - ability to find and use knowledge / information effectively and efficiently
- Social - making friends, fitting in, playing by the rules
- Life - self regulatory skills, hygiene, taking responsibility, decision making
- Physical - Fine motor, gross motor, dexterity, nutrition, physical well being

A person must master all these skills to be successful in today's society. Regardless of intelligence, a person will not be successful without these skills in place.

Children are unique, like fingerprints. They possess similar characteristics and qualities, but don't fit perfectly into any one diagnosis. Every child has specific needs and possesses unique skill sets.

Not everything in this brochure will apply to your child. The important thing is Kentwood's philosophy and focus meets your expectations.

Reasons for Lack of Success

Social / Life Skills

- Difficulty making friends / treating friends / keeping friends
- Low self esteem / self confidence / depression
- Impulsive / poor decision making skills
- General lack of social skills
- Inability to see cause and effect
- Will not accept responsibility for their actions
- Oppositional or defiant

Academic Deficits

- Problems in one or more subject areas
- Cannot or will not complete homework
- Leaves books at school or homework at home
- Is non cooperative / non compliant in the classroom
- Constant phone calls from the school / teacher
- Does not like school
- Won't get up in the morning / fight to get them to school

At home

- Room is a mess / cannot find things / loses things
- Poor hygiene / won't shower or brush teeth
- Uses all the shampoo or loses the soap
- Leaves wet clothes all over the house
- Wants to watch TV or play games during meal times
- Won't sit at the table or eat with the rest of family
- Won't eat the food prepared
- Wants to do all kinds of things at bed time
- Won't stay in room
- Fights with parents / siblings
- Won't get up in the morning / fight to get them to school

Everything listed above are symptoms of Cognitive Skill Deficits. In other words, your child is not struggling academically because he or she can't read or add numbers. Rather, they can't read or add numbers because of cognitive skill deficits. They have trouble following directions, staying on task, keeping things organized, making good choices, taking responsibility, and problem solving because of cognitive skill deficits. What are cognitive skills?

Cognitive Skills

Cognitive skills are any mental skills that are used in the process of acquiring knowledge; these skills include reasoning, perception, and intuition and are broken down further into the following categories.

Processing Speed:

The efficiency in which the brain processes the data it receives. Faster processing speed leads to more efficient thinking and learning.

Auditory Processing:

This is the specific skill of processing sounds. We break this skill down into three measurable areas that greatly impact reading and spelling. These are analyzing, segmenting, and blending sounds. For example, when you hear a word, you are required to hear the individual and blended sounds that make that word unique and recognizable.

When you read a word, you must recreate the individual and blended sounds to form a word in your mind or to speak it. When a word you read is unfamiliar, you must decode it and correctly assign sounds to the letter or letter combinations. This skill is called Word Attack. Auditory skills are essential if a student is to read, spell, or learn new words or concepts well.

Visual Processing:

This is the ability to receive and manipulate visual information. Puzzles are a great illustration in the function of visual processing. Visualization (creating mental images) also greatly affects reading comprehension and long-term memory.



Memory:

Memory skills fall into two broad categories: long term storage and recall memory and short-term working memory. Long term memory becomes the "library" of facts upon which we build our concepts and accumulate knowledge. Working memory handles the dynamic job of holding data during the learning experience, while we are receiving multiple bits of new information. We then combine and process that information to create new concepts and understanding.

Logic and Reasoning:

These skills are necessary to create those new and likely relationships between information we take in as we learn. We use these skills to compare new data with recalled facts stored in long term memory. Problem solving and planning are also greatly impacted by logic and reasoning skills.

Task Analysis, Sequencing, and Part/Whole Relationships:

These skills dictate how we approach a problem, decide on potential solutions, implement the solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution to the original problem.

Critical Thinking and Conflict Resolution Skills:

These skills dictate how we respond to adversity and praise, when to fight and when to walk away, and knowing the appropriate method of responding to stressful situations.

Attention Skills:

The last broad area we work on in training is attention. Attention breaks down into a few areas:

- **Sustained Attention** is the ability to stay focused and on task.
- **Divided Attention** is the ability to focus on several important points simultaneously.
- **Selected Attention** skills enable a student to quickly sort and discard distractions or irrelevant incoming information and remain focused on the important information or instruction.

It is not difficult to see how these Cognitive Skills apply to learning and if any of these skills are weak; your child's ability to learn would be difficult if not impossible.

...and not just learning in the classroom. Skills like showering, making friends, following directions, waiting their turn, and many others would be affected.



'Building strong cognitive skills is the key to every child's success.'

Why tutoring and academic remediation alone won't work?

"Reading and writing rely on a specific set of cognitive skills such as attention, memory, symbolic thinking, and self-regulation. As children learn to read and write, they continue to improve these skills, making them more purposeful and deliberate. Deliberate attention is required to differentiate between letters, even if they look alike, and to isolate specific portions of a word for encoding or decoding it. Children must remember the previous words as they decode the subsequent words in a sentence. If they do not make a purposeful attempt to remember, they cannot extract what the sentence means. Writing and reading are the use of symbols and if children cannot think symbolically, they cannot learn to manipulate letters and words. Finally, self-regulation must be in place so that children can monitor their own understanding of the print so they can abandon ineffective reading strategies and move on to more effective ones." Mid continent Research for Education and Learning (1998).

Kentwood Systems

- Academic Skills • Social Skills • Life Skills • Physical Skills
- Small classrooms - 10 to 15 students
- Student to staff ratio 5 to 1
- Focus on skill base learning rather than factual memorization
- Teach critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Offer constant positive feedback and reinforcement
- Determine and remediate specific deficits
- Give students the skills they will need to succeed
- Create a nurturing safe environment that fosters learning, promotes teamwork, and facilitates social and emotional growth



Kentwood Process

A. Kentwood begins by teaching all of our students to memorize the 3 commandments.

LIFE IS NOT FAIR - Life isn't fair. As adults, we all know this is a fact. Your children need to learn this NOW. The next time your child tells you 'that is not fair', remind him or her of commandment 1.

THINK IT BUT DON'T SAY IT - you can think anything you want without getting into trouble. The trouble comes when you say it. Learning to think something but not saying it aloud is a critical skill to being successful in all aspects of life.

LEARN TO PLAY THE GAME - life is a game. There are rules, boundaries, other players, friends, foes, teams, obstacles, tools, pitfalls, winners, losers, and everything in between. The key is learning how to play the game.

B. Identify deficits vs. manipulation

Deficits

- Actual gaps in knowledge that prevent a child from making the proper decisions or being able to perform the appropriate task.
- Child does not know the difference between the correct choice and incorrect choice.
- Child chooses a course of action based on lack of knowledge or awareness of a better choice
- The effect of consequences (positive or negative) are irrelevant to decision
- Child chooses course of action due to lack of options
- Rewards and punishments have no effect on deficit based actions; they must be remediated.

Manipulation

- Manipulative actions are where the child knows the difference between the correct choice and incorrect choice.
- Child chooses a course of action in order to invoke a (specific) response, usually an emotional response from whoever is in charge.
- Child chooses a course of action due to lack of negative consequences
- Child uses actions as a mechanism of control
- Rewards and punishments are the only way to control manipulative actions.

C. Take control back of your home and let us teach your child how to take control of their own education.

Homework

- Kentwood students (excluding High School) do not receive homework for up to 6 months upon being accepted. This is because we need to make sure they have the organizational skills and task analysis skills in place prior to assigning independent work.

Natural consequences

- Kentwood utilizes a system of natural consequences. These consequences, school rules, and expectations of decorum are clearly defined and agreed upon by all students and parents.

Structure and consistency

- Structure and consistency are keys to success for any educational environment. They are also skills and tools which Kentwood role models every day.

Prepare for success

- Remediate not accommodate. Real life does not and will never make the accommodations that public and some private schools make for their students. Real life does not accept excuses. Companies and employers do not allocate extra time to complete projects because an employee has ADHD or Aspergers. Bosses and supervisors will not tolerate oppositional or defiant behaviors. Kentwood's goal is to remediate and/or eliminate these problems in order to promote future success.

Setting appropriate goals

- Short term - what to accomplish within 1 month
- Medium term - what to accomplish within 3 to 6 months
- Long Term - what to accomplish after a year or longer

Kentwood Curriculum (Grades 1 to 8)

Language Arts

- Writing
- Reading / Reading comprehension
- Grammar
- Literature

Mathematics

First through 12th graders are required to take mathematics. Kentwood offers mathematics through Trigonometry. For those High School students who advance beyond Trigonometry, Kentwood offers Advanced Placement courses through dual enrollment at local colleges.

Cognotics

- Proprietary program developed within Kentwood to develop Cognitive Skills.

Social / Life Skills

Kentwood's social skills curriculum was developed by Social Workers, Child Psychologists, and Therapists. Topics range from hygiene, introducing yourself, and how to handle conflict situations to drug prevention, sex education, college preparatory skills, and job/resume interview skills.

Information Technology

- Typing Skills
- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Electronic contact management
- Presentation software
- Wireless technology
- Using the internet as an information tool

Social Studies

- History
- Culture
- Language

Science

Kentwood offers science courses through 12th grade, including Chemistry and Biology. Kentwood's Advanced Placement Program offers dual enrollment at local colleges for those High School students who advance beyond Chemistry.

Foreign Language

Spanish is the primary secondary language taught at Kentwood. Our language lab, in conjunction with Rosetta Stone offers students the opportunity to learn and master over 20 languages including:

- Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Swedish.

Physical Education

- Required 1st through 8th grade
- Elective in High School

Electives

- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Theatre
- Library



Remedial Labs

Students who require additional support for either Language Arts or Mathematics will be placed in the Remedial Lab for those academic sessions only. The remedial lab offers:

- Small group tutoring
- Individual tutoring
- Individualized curriculum support

Advanced Placement

Students who excel in either Language Arts or Mathematics may be placed in a higher group for those academic sessions only.

Advanced placement offers:

- Continued improvement on student strengths
- Continued academic challenges to gifted students

** Advanced placement has proven highly successful for the bright student who is bored within the classroom.

Kentwood Curriculum (High School – Grades 9-12)

Kentwood Preparatory High School represents a significant shift from traditional high school philosophies, with a maximum enrollment of 60 students. Self-governing and characterized by high expectations for all students, Kentwood emphasizes equity in student outcomes, shared decision-making among faculty, individualized instruction and attention, and a strong focus on the "new five R's" - Rigor, Relevance, Relationships, Resiliency and Responsibility."

Kentwood Preparatory High School offers 5 distinct tracks.

Track	Description	Credits	Goal
I	University Diploma	24 Credits	University
II	College Diploma	24 Credits	Community College Technical School
III	Tech Diploma	18 Credits 6 credits taken at Trade School	Technical School Trade School
IV	Special Diploma SLD / 504	24 Credits (not at grade level)	Job Training
V	Certificate of Completion	Record of courses attended	Job Training

Dual Enrollment / Advanced Placement

Juniors and Seniors who have completed required High School credits, and whose scores qualify on the SAT, ACT, or CPT will be eligible for dual enrollment at local community colleges.

Standardized Testing

Terra Nova (Grades 1 - 12)

- A nationally standardized achievement test
- Areas that are assessed are Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- Advantage of longstanding and thorough data on validity and reliability
- Progress can be tracked over years and/or by grade

ACT (Grades 9 - 12)

- The ACT® test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work.
- The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.
- The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay.

SAT (Grades 9 - 12)

- The SAT Reasoning Test is the nation's most widely used admission test among colleges and universities. It tests students' knowledge of subjects that are necessary for college success: reading, writing, and mathematics. The SAT assesses the critical thinking skills, students need for academic success in college—skills that students learned in high school.
- Subject Tests (formerly SAT II: Subject Tests) are designed to measure students' knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as their ability to apply that knowledge.



Kentwood Staff Members

Kentwood employs an eclectic group of staff members in an effort to facilitate our holistic approach to teaching and education. Staff members' degrees vary from Bachelor and Master degrees in Teaching, Special Education, Remedial Education, English, Mathematics, Psychology, Environmental Science, Biology, Elementary Education, Dance, Music, and more.

The most important training our staff receive is at Kentwood. They become masters of Kentwood's proprietary academic, social, and life skill educational systems.

Creating a safe/nurturing environment

Studies have shown the human brain is neurologically hindered from receiving and storing information when exposed to stress. Learning cannot take place in a classroom if a child does not feel safe or is anxious. Therefore Kentwood advocates the following rules:

- No bullying, teasing, or name calling
- No degrading, shouting, or yelling
- Consistency, structure, and follow through
- Control emotional reactions
- Rules and boundaries must be known
- Clearly defined consequences of actions

Many of the skills we teach need to continually be reinforced as our students get older and mature. We can teach a 5th grader to be socially and academically on level with other 5th graders. However, when that 5th grader enters middle school, the rules change.

Relationships enter the picture, homework builds, and peer pressure begins. A whole new set of skills must be taught and learned. This process takes place again during 8th or 9th grade. Puberty, dating, pressures of high school, and being a teenager present a whole new set of obstacles for our students. Once our students reach 17 or 18 they will have been 'prepared for life.' The academic, social, and life skill sets they have learned will serve them for the rest of their lives - college, university, on the job, or marriage.



Preparing Children For Life

A school should function as a "social anchor" teaching not only facts and figures, but morals, ethics, life skills, social skills, conscientious conduct, and respect for others and the world around us.

Preparing our students for their future requires providing an education that not only establishes a sound academic, social skill, and life skill base, but also gives them tools and strategies needed to compete in a digital age. Our students will be architects of the future, and not its victims.

KPEC

The Kentwood Parent Enrichment Committee's (KPEC) mission is to support the students, their families, and the faculty throughout the year. More specifically their role is to provide extracurricular activities, host appreciation and social functions, organize additional rewards for the students throughout the year, and donate various supplies and/or equipment for specific programs.

KPEC operates completely independently of Kentwood Preparatory School and is fully organized, funded, maintained and supervised by parents. KPEC is not a traditional PTA. Faculty members do not join KPEC and KPEC does not get involved in Kentwood policies and/or procedures. The focus of KPEC is to provide a richer environment for the children and families of Kentwood.

Some KPEC sponsored events are:

- Fall Festival
- Spring Fling
- High School Dance
- Movie Night
- Bowling
- Dinner at local restaurants
- Waterway Cleanup
- Police Day
- Teacher Appreciation Week



Kentwood Information



Accreditation

Kentwood is fully accredited by the same bodies as the public school system and the elite private schools in the country. (AISF/SACS/CASI)

Calendar and Hours

Kentwood follows the county public school calendar in which the campus is located. There are some days which are different, but the county calendar is followed 95% of the time.

Pre Care:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 8:30am

School Hours

Elementary School 8:30 - 2:30pm

Middle School 8:30 - 3:00pm

High School 8:30 - 3:15pm

Aftercare:

Monday - Friday 2:45 - 5:30pm

Extracurricular Activities

Kentwood offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Sports, Drama, Art, Music, and Dance are offered on a seasonal basis throughout the school year.



Transport

Kentwood offers transport within a 20 mile radius of each campus. Pick up points and door to door services are available. If a student lives outside of the 20 mile radius, special arrangements can be made through the school.

Uniforms

Kentwood has a strict uniform policy. Almost every job requires a uniform - Doctors, nurses, police officer, postal worker, UPS, McDonalds, Orkin, Judges, Professionals. Complying with a dress code is a life skill everyone must learn. Kentwood's uniforms are purchased through a uniform store in the local area.

Lunches & Snacks

Catered lunches are available. Lunches can be purchased by the day or by month. Students are also welcome to bring their own lunches. All students have a mid morning break (10 to 15 minutes). We encourage students to pack a snack which they may eat at this time.

Medications

Kentwood will ONLY dispense/administer medications provided there is a signed note or a copy of a prescription from a licensed Medical Doctor.

Therapy & Counseling

Kentwood works closely with Music, Occupational, Speech, Language, Cognitive, Individual, and Family therapists throughout the area. Therapists and Doctors who have applied for and received visitation privileges at Kentwood may see students on campus during the day, before school, or after school.

Admission Process

All applicants must go through Kentwood's admission process. This process consists of:

1. Private interview with student
2. Private interview with family
3. Brief academic screening
4. Campus tour
5. Review of all background information and files
6. Review of Kentwood intake paperwork
7. Based on results - further testing or a trial period may be required

Admission Process Continued

If student is accepted to Kentwood, the admission process moves to the finance department.

Kentwood will also assist families in finding an appropriate school placement if their child is not accepted.

Financial Admission Process

Parents who cannot afford full tuition must:

- Fill out scholarship request / financial aid forms
- Provide all required documentation (Tax returns, Personal Financial Statements)

Based on space and availability Kentwood will grant scholarship requests on a first come, first served basis.

Mckay Scholarships

Kentwood is a McKay scholarship authorized school

How Long Does My Child Need to be at Kentwood

Kentwood, like Catholic, Hebrew, Military and Parochial Schools, is an alternative school choice. It is a choice for education, a belief system, and a lifestyle. The majority of the students that enroll at Kentwood, graduate from Kentwood. When a child is experiencing success academically, socially, and emotionally, there is no reason to change their environment.

