



# BIG PICTURE PROGRAM GUIDE

2024-2025

KenTon Big Picture  
KJSHS  
155 Delaware Road  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14217

716.873.8403

[www.ktufsd.org/bigpicture](http://www.ktufsd.org/bigpicture)

**BIG**  
PICTURE  
KEN-TON



# WELCOME TO KENTON BP!

We are thrilled to have your student join our Big Picture family. The foundation of our non-traditional program is to educate “one student at a time” through our unique school design.

## Advisory Structure

Advisory is the heart and soul of our program. It serves as a student’s learning community, made up of 15 students and one teacher, which we call an Advisor. Students stay in the same advisory from 7th-8th grade in the middle school, and then transition to a high school advisory from 9th-12th grade. Building relationships and connections in advisory is a main focus of our program.

## Interest & Project-Based Learning

Discovering and pursuing student interests are vital to our curriculum. Each trimester, students work on an independent project on any topic that interests them. For 13 weeks, students dive deep into research, answer essential questions, and create an artifact that connects to their topic. Students work on these projects through the lens of quantitative reasoning (QR), social reasoning (SR), empirical reasoning (ER) and communicative reasoning (CR).

## Leaving to Learns & Internships

Real world learning is one of the foundational principles of our school. We believe leaving the confines of our building provides incredible opportunities for exposure to the arts, outdoors, careers, and service learning. Middle School students go on Leaving to Learns (L2Ls) 2-4 times per month and high school students engage in internships in the community two days per week at a career of their choice.

## Exhibitions

At the end of each trimester, students will give a 30-60 minute presentation for their family, Advisor, and other students and staff to share what they have learned. We liken this to a parent-teacher conference, except the student does most of the talking. Parents will hear about all aspects of their child’s learning and growth: projects, academic coursework, internships, Leaving to Learns, personal qualities, and future goals.



## WHAT HAPPENS AT BIG PICTURE:



**BIG PICTURE**  
*Living*

Big Picture Living focuses on a balanced life with activities in the categories of: Recharge, Chill, Move, Nourish, Social, and Caution.





# REAL-WORLD LEARNING

## Middle School: Leaving to Learns

Big Picture Middle School students leave the building on a regular basis to gain experiences outside the classroom. 7th grade advisories embark on L2Ls at least every other week, and 8th grade advisories are scheduled weekly.

These are more than just a “field trip”; they are meaningful learning experience students first prepare in the classroom for, and then reflect on afterward.

Students are exposed to the arts, the outdoors, local businesses, non-profits, and engage in service learning.

### Examples of L2L Sites

Burchfield Penney Art Museum – Jr. Docent Program  
 Darwin Martin House – Jr. Docent Program  
 West Side Rowing Club  
 Planet Fitness  
 Kayaking at Beaver Island State Park  
 Fishing at Tiffy Nature Preserve  
 Broadway Market  
 Meals on Wheels  
 Kenmore Fire Department  
 Nardin Squash  
 Town of Tonawanda Police Station  
 KenTon Meals on Wheels  
 Church of the Good Shepherd Food Pantry  
 Hikes at Various New York State Parks  
 Buffalo City Mission Tour  
 Buffalo Yacht Club  
 Buffalo History Museum  
 Platter’s Chocolates  
 Town of Tonawanda Highway Department  
 Black Rock Books  
 Blue Table Chocolates  
 Connect Life

## High School: Internships

Big Picture High School students engage in real world learning by going out into community on an internship of their choice. Tuesday and Thursday are designated internship days where students get hands-on experience learning about a field they are passionate about. Students are able to try several different internships per year if they would like, or can stay in the same one until June.

If students are going to be absent on an internship day, it is the **student’s responsibility** to contact their mentor as soon as possible. Please check with your teen that they have their mentor’s contact info.

### Examples of Internship Sites

Buffalo Museum of Science  
 Nothing Bundt Cakes Bakery  
 Delaware Camera  
 Mojo Market  
 26 Shirts  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Buffalo Brew Fab  
 Crockett & Company Barber Shop  
 KenTon Closet  
 Arc Iron Creations  
 Sweet Beginnings Bakery  
 Pacillos Fitness Gear  
 Phatman Board Shop  
 Spot Coffee  
 Alford’s Angel Dog Grooming  
 Scott’s Diesel Solutions  
 KenTon Chamber of Commerce  
 Colvin-Brighton Child Care  
 Brookdale Senior Living  
 Canisius College Food Service  
 Warren’s Auto Tech  
 Various KenTon Schools: Elementary, ELL, Art, Music

# IMPORTANT DATES

We follow the same school calendar as the rest of the KenTon District.  
Here are some events unique to BP:

9/4	<b>Open House 5:30 PM</b>
11/18- 12/6	<b>Fall Exhibition Weeks</b>
12/4	<b>Early Release Day</b>
3/3 - 3/14	<b>Winter Exhibition Weeks</b>
3/5	<b>Early Release Day</b>
3/19	<b>Tedx Kenmore Jr Sr High</b>
5/15	<b>Mentor Celebration</b>
5/25	<b>BP Arts Fest</b>
5/28	<b>BPHS Awards 1 PM</b>
6/5	<b>Exhibition Fair</b>
6/12	<b>MS Bridge Ceremony 1 PM</b>
6/20	<b>HS Graduation</b>



## CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are collected at the beginning of the school day by advisors. They are returned at lunch, and then collected again for the rest of the day.

High school students are permitted to bring cell phones to internships if they adhere to the policies discussed by the Internship Coordinators.

## BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

All students regardless of income are offered free breakfast and lunch daily. For internships and Leaving to Learns, bagged lunches are provided.

## START & END TIMES

**Doors Open: 7:50 AM**  
\*Enter at Door 10

**School Begins: 8:10 AM**  
\*Late entry - Door 1 only

**School Ends: 2:40 PM**

## TRANSPORTATION

Any student eligible for a bus will receive transportation to and from school.

Contact Info:  
[www.ktufsd.org/transportation](http://www.ktufsd.org/transportation)  
716.874.8611

Transportation for our Leaving to Learns and internships are handled in house by our Internship Coordinators.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is imperative in our program. If students must be absent, alert **Andra Fik** at **874.8703 ext. 32325**. This includes early dismissals. Students who are too ill to stay at school should only be excused through the nurse's office. Please refrain from picking up your child until you have contacted an adult. All absences and early dismissals must be confirmed with a parent note.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Kevin Kruger**

Principal

716.873.8403 ext. 32326  
kkruger@ktufsd.org

**Nadine Brown**

Program Coordinator

Social Worker  
716.873.8403 ext. 32328  
nbrown@ktufsd.org

**Josef Rivera Lorentz**

School Counselor

716.873.8403 ext. 32321  
jlorentz@ktufsd.org

**Sarah Galante**

Leaving to Learn

Coordinator  
716.873.8403 ext. 32311  
sgalante@ktufsd.org

**Chris Watson**

Internship Coordinator

716.308.4814  
cwatson@ktufsd.org

**James Rustowicz**

Internship Coordinator

716.866.0337  
jrutowicz@ktufsd.org

**Matt LaVigne**

401 Advisor

mlavigne@ktufsd.org

**Stacey Pritchard**

301 Green Advisor

spritchard@ktufsd.org

**Mary Bolles**

301 White Advisor

mbolles@ktufsd.org

**Dan Litz**

201 Blue Advisor

dlitz@ktufsd.org

**Morgan Moliski**

201 Red Advisor

mmoliski@ktufsd.org

**Jennifer MacDaniel**

101 Teal Advisor

jkmacdonald@ktufsd.org

**Karen Monaco**

101 Violet Advisor

kmonaco@ktufsd.org

**Nikki Hanagan**

MS Hearts Advisor

nhanagan@ktufsd.org

**Tracy Rosenhahn**

MS Moons Advisor

trosenhahn@ktufsd.org

**Aaron Wohl**

MS Stars Advisor

awohl@ktufsd.org

**Matt Miller**

MS Clovers Advisor

mmiller@ktufsd.org

**Jennifer Leone**

Art Teacher

jmlone@ktufsd.org

**Matt Harris**

Phys Ed Teacher

mharris@ktufsd.org

**Sabrina Bystrak**

Special Ed Teacher

sbystrak@ktufsd.org

**Waverly Lancer**

Librarian

wlancer@ktufsd.org

**Casey Peglowski**

Spanish Teacher

cpelglowski@ktufsd.org

**Michelle Phillips**

Teacher Aide

mphillips@ktufsd.org

**Becky Storer**

Teacher Aide

rstorer@ktufsd.org

**Andra Fik**

Admin Assistant

716.873.8403 ext. 32325

**Adele Turek**

School Nurse

716.873.8403 ext. 32540

# PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

## 6 TIPS

### ON HOW TO HELP YOUR STUDENT'S ADVISOR

#### STAY IN TOUCH

When an advisor reaches out, please return their text, email, or call as soon as possible.

#### KEEP THEM POSTED

Have you noticed a change in your teen's mood, mental or physical health? Are there family events that may affect them at school? Let advisors know with a quick message.

#### PRIORITIZE BEING PRESENT

If your teen is well enough to come to school but asks to stay home, insist they attend. If this is a constant struggle, let your advisor know right away - they can help.

#### WORK TOGETHER

Consider your teen's advisor your ally. Support our school consequences and expectations at home. If you have a question, call anytime.

#### ENCOURAGE GROWTH

Getting students outside their comfort zone is a Big Picture priority. Support this pursuit by assuring your teen that although it isn't comfortable, they can do it.

#### JOIN US!

Attend all scheduled exhibitions and come to school events as much as possible. It means a lot to your teen, and to us, to have you here!



### REQUIRED PARENT COMMITMENTS

Learning Plan Meetings

Fall and Winter Exhibitions

3rd Trimester Exhibition Fair

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT AN EXHIBITION

- Everyone in your family is welcome- including any siblings
- Students will present anywhere from 30-60 minutes, followed by a discussion with everyone in the audience.
- All audience members, including family, should share at least one positive comment and one area for improvement. Advisors can give you a list of questions or comments that you may want to pull from if you aren't sure.
- Many exhibitions are interactive; you may be called on to participate!
- Family involvement is a key component to our BP philosophy!