

For Immediate Release



## **Kentwood Public School's ARCH After-school Program Receives \$10.5 Million in State Grants**

**Kentwood, Michigan, June 11, 2024** – Kentwood Public Schools and the City of Kentwood have received \$10.5 million in state grants for the district's successful ARCH after-school and summer learning program.

The district and city will receive three 2024-25 Nita M. Lowry 21st Century Community Learning Center grants from the Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential. The grants will be distributed in increments of \$2.1 million annually over the next five years to fund the ARCH program.

"We are thrilled and appreciative to receive these grants and continue to offer high-quality learning experiences beyond the school day and throughout the summer," said Kentwood Public Schools ARCH Project Director Lori Bramble-Romeo.

The ARCH program – Academic enrichment, Recreation and the arts, Community and family services and Healthy Relationships – offers Kentwood students after school learning opportunities such as STEM learning, field trips, guest speakers, career exploration and other high-quality experiences.

"One goal in our district's strategic plan is to ensure equitable opportunities and outcomes for our students," Bramble-Romeo said. "The ARCH program plays a key role in achieving this goal."

The City of Kentwood's Parks and Recreation, Police and Fire departments coordinate with the district on a variety of programming. The ARCH program is offered from elementary through the high school levels and is available in the summer.

"We are delighted to partner with Kentwood Public Schools and provide students the opportunity to grow and learn outside the classroom," said Val Romeo, the City of Kentwood's Parks and Recreation director.

The grants, which are based on availability of federal funds and appropriation in the state budget, go into effect on July 1, 2024 and extend to June 30, 2029.

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Media Contact: Tim Hargis, Kentwood Public Schools Director of Communication  
(P): 616.455.4400 ext. 79981 email: [timothy.hargis@kentwoodps.org](mailto:timothy.hargis@kentwoodps.org)

Arianna Farina, City of Kentwood  
(P): 248.909.8240 email: [arianna@sabo-pr.com](mailto:arianna@sabo-pr.com)