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Kids In Concert moves to Kingston Middle School

Move to North Kitsap School District will allow for more enrollment in free youth music education program

Suquamish, WA. July 24, 2026. The leadership of Kids in Concert is delighted to announce that they have signed a lease agreement with the North Kitsap School District and will be moving their after-school programming from West Sound Academy to Kingston Middle School for the 2026/2027 program year. This move will allow for closer partnership between KIC and the NKSD, as well as providing Kids in Concert with dedicated classroom space for the first time in their 15 years of operation.

Kids in Concert will offer four days of programming per week, with intermediate and advanced students attending Mondays and Wednesdays and beginning students attending Thursdays and Fridays. Rebecca Marchand, KIC's Executive Director, says, "This lease is a real step forward for Kids in Concert. For most of our fifteen years, we've made programming work in whatever space we could, with our teaching artists and teen volunteers spending a good part of every session hauling stands, chairs, and instruments in and out, and resetting rooms between lessons and ensembles. Dedicated classroom space changes that. We can leave a rehearsal set up overnight, keep student work on the walls, and give kids a room that's theirs. One detail I love: our Artistic Director and Co-Founder, Laura Milleson, is a KMS graduate herself, so for her, this is a homecoming. We're grateful to the North Kitsap School District, the facilities team, and everyone at Kingston Middle School for making this possible. We're excited to be in Kingston."

91 students are currently enrolled in KIC's school-year program, which includes instruction in string and percussion instruments, musical ensembles, choir, and social and emotional programming. Demand for KIC's programming is high, with 50 children on the waitlist. Students range from ages 6-18 and come from communities across north Kitsap County, including Suquamish, Indianola, Kingston, Poulsbo, and Bainbridge Island. Just under 50% of KIC students identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), with 19% identifying as tribal members. 30% qualify for free or reduced school lunch.

In addition to musical instruction, KIC's program emphasizes community, mentorship, and youth development, and includes college readiness programming and leadership training.

KIC students perform in several free community concerts throughout the year. KIC's chamber groups perform regularly at community events throughout Bainbridge and North Kitsap and have partnered with area musical organizations including Amabile choir, North Kitsap High School Choir, Singalong and Sounds, and the Kingston High School Band.

In 2023, [KIC was designated a "Community Partner" by the Seattle Symphony](#), a recognition of the organization's commitment to, "expanding opportunities for historically underserved youth across the Puget Sound region to enhance their musical development and broaden music education access in the community." In February, KIC students will perform at Benaroya Hall in their third side-by-side concert with the Seattle Symphony.

If you would like more information about this topic please contact KIC Executive Director, Rebecca Marchand, at rebecca@kidsinconcert.org, or KIC Development Officer, Deborah Hobden, at deborah@kidsinconcert.org.

For more information about Kids in Concert, or to make a donation, visit www.kidsinconcert.org.