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Kettle Lake Elementary Named a 2026 Michigan Blue Ribbon School

Caledonia, MI – Kettle Lake Elementary School has been named a **2026 Michigan Blue Ribbon School** by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), earning recognition in the **Bridging the Gap** category.

The Michigan Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes Michigan's highest-performing schools and schools demonstrating meaningful progress in closing achievement gaps. Kettle Lake's designation recognizes the school's outstanding academic achievement and commitment to student success.

"This recognition is a reflection of the incredible work happening every day at Kettle Lake," said Kettle Lake Elementary Principal Megan Ballmer. "Our staff is deeply committed to knowing our students, meeting them where they are, and helping each of them grow. We are so proud of our students and grateful for the partnership of our families and the entire Kettle Lake community."

The Michigan Blue Ribbon Schools program was established following the discontinuation of the U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon Schools Program in 2025. The state program continues the tradition of recognizing schools for exemplary academic achievement while also highlighting Michigan schools making meaningful progress in closing achievement gaps.

Kettle Lake's recognition reflects not only strong student performance, but also the collective dedication of its educators, school leaders, students, families, and broader school community.

Caledonia Community Schools Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer shared his pride in the accomplishment.

"Kettle Lake's recognition as a Michigan Blue Ribbon School is a tremendous accomplishment for the entire school community," said Weeldreyer. "It reflects the dedication of our staff, the hard work of our students, and the support of our families. This recognition is a wonderful example of our commitment across Caledonia Community Schools to ensure students are known, challenged, connected, and prepared."

Kettle Lake Elementary will be formally recognized by the Michigan State Board of Education during its **December 8 meeting in Lansing**, where representatives from the school and district will be honored alongside the other 2026 Michigan Blue Ribbon Schools.

Congratulations to the students, staff, families, and the entire Kettle Lake Elementary community on this outstanding achievement.