



# BIG PICTURE PROGRAM GUIDE

2024-2025

KenTon Big Picture  
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[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.

## 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.

## 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).

## 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.

# PORTRAIT of a Big Picture Student



## POTENTIAL BIG PICTURE STUDENTS:

I can get lost in my interests or hobbies for hours...



I get lost in the shuffle and don't know how to make new connections with peers or teachers...



I have knowledge and skills, but my classmates might not know because I do not like to speak up in class...



I like to learn by being hands on and seeing things in person ...



I like to volunteer and want to learn more about people with differing perspectives ...



I want to grow to be the best version of myself...



I am drained by busywork and tests...



Sometimes I am not ready to jump into learning in my classes right away...



I want to grow and learn more than just the topics needed to graduate...



## WHAT HAPPENS AT BIG PICTURE:

Independent Research Projects to explore interests, create artifacts to show our learning, and exhibitions to present our learning.

Advisory is a group of 15 students and one staff member who stay together.

Middle School: 2 Years  
High School: 4 Years

We have circles to give everyone a space to talk. We use them to form, strengthen, and restore our community.

We learn by having experiences in the real world through Internships (HS), Leaving to Learns, and Advisory activities.

We make connections with our community and incorporate diversity by volunteering and listening to guest speakers from the area.

Big Picture is one student at a time. We meet students where they are and develop individual learning plans to set personal goals each Trimester.

We are a Regents program but do not have homework assigned. We can show our learning through projects.

We have Pick Me Ups to start the day with an interesting activity. Exploratory is a week long class led by teachers or peers on any topic we pick.

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 Tiff 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.

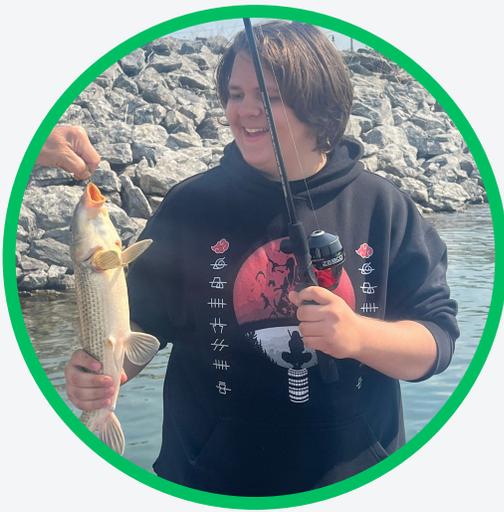
If students are going to be absent on an internship day, it is the **student’s responsibility** to contact their mentor as soon as possible. Please check with your teen that they have their mentor’s contact info.

### 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:



## 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.

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>



# CONTACT INFORMATION



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# 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!