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A quarterly newsletter from your friends at KMTelecom

It's Time to Prepare for Learning Success

As our community prepares for a new school year, we wish all students, teachers, and families the best of luck. May it be a year of positive growth and successful learning for all! This quote from Alexander Graham Bell, who patented the first practical telephone, caught our attention and seemed appropriate to share: "Before anything else, preparation is the key to success."

Business Office Closed

Monday, September 1st, 2025
Labor Day

Thursday, November 27th, 2025
Thanksgiving Day

KMTelecom

18 Second Avenue NW
Kasson, MN 55944-1491
507-634-2511

Local call for KMTelecom customers in
Kasson, Mantorville, Rock Dell and
Dodge Center

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm
For help with service problems during
non-business hours, please call 507-634-2505.

24/7 Internet Help Desk

Kasson, Mantorville Area 507-634-2575
Rock Dell Area 507-634-2575 (FREE call)
Dodge Center Area 507-633-2575

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www.kmtel.com

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KMTelecom
Where technology comes with a human touch



Cool Attitudes and Cool Technology

It's cool to love learning, to embrace challenges, and to build friendships. As parents, these are the cool attitudes we want to foster in our children as the school year begins.

Cool technology, like our unbeatably fast and reliable fiber internet, can also help students keep their cool and work efficiently through online assignments — without having to deal with annoying buffering or downed connections.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL

Sign up for a fiber internet plan with speeds up to 2 Gig and receive:
\$100 Bill Credit + Free Install (\$190 Value).*

Call 507-634-2511

*Offer Ends September 30, 2025.

Employee Spotlights

We have some new faces in the Tech Department. Please help us welcome Bryan Hansen and Jonathan Burnes!

Bryan Hansen jumped right into the workforce after graduating from high school. He gained experience at Casey's and Affordable Portables and even spent summers traveling the country working on ski lifts. Bryan moved to the Kasson area with his family in 2007 and is the oldest of five children. Outside of work, Bryan enjoys hunting, fishing, playing sports, snowboarding, golfing, disc golfing, and spending time with family and friends.

Jonathan Burnes joins KMTelecom with a background in mechanics and construction. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, he relocated to Kasson to be closer to family. Jonathan is a proud uncle to two nieces and a nephew and enjoys caring for his pet snake and fish. In his free time, he likes watching Minnesota sports, fishing, gardening, golfing, hiking, driving old cars, and spending time with loved ones.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Bryan and Jonathan. We're excited to have them on the team!

**Bryan
Hansen**

**Jonathan
Burnes**

Through Esports, Students Gain Team Experience and Other Skills



Not every student is cut out for traditional sports that demand physical strength and skills. An alternative is esports (or electronic sports), where reflexes, strategy, and digital prowess reign supreme.

A growing number of schools now offer esports, particularly for grades 6 to 12, and it's a sought-after extracurricular activity. Players compete against their opponents in video gaming competitions across a variety of video game genres. To succeed, members of the esports team must work collaboratively and solve problems quickly. As with any school sport, the teams have a fanbase that comes together to watch — in-person or virtually — and supports gamers as they play.

Competitive video gaming itself is not new. However, improvements in computing power and graphics as well as internet performance have made game play more immersive and interactive. Streaming services like Twitch and YouTube, through which players can broadcast their game play and spectators can watch live or post competition, also contribute to the rising interest in esports.

What are some of the benefits experienced by esports participants?

- Positive impacts on self-esteem
- Increased focus in class
- Improved academic performance
- Building of strategic, analytical, and leadership skills
- Enhanced problem-solving abilities
- Opportunities to make friends
- Greater sense of belonging at school



In addition, these students gain new technical skills that can be applied outside of esports, and they may be inspired to pursue higher education or careers in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM).

As mentioned earlier, internet performance is key to online gaming. Players require low latency for real-time interaction. (Latency, measured in milliseconds, is the delay between a player's action and the game's response.) Players also need high download speeds for fast downloading and high upload speeds for streaming their gameplay. Plus, since nothing is as frustrating as being disconnected mid-game, a consistent internet connection is essential.

KMTelecom proudly supports our local esports teams and provides fiber internet to school buildings.

Enjoy Hassle-Free Connectivity With Our Managed Wi-Fi

We get it. You have much better things to do with your time than troubleshoot problems with your home's Wi-Fi network. You simply want it to work well and provide strong, consistent Wi-Fi signals in every room and for every device.

That's why we provide Managed Wi-Fi to our customers. This service is designed to eliminate Wi-Fi dead zones and provide a seamless and reliable internet connection throughout your home. Managed Wi-Fi includes a next-generation router as well as a mobile app to conveniently manage your network, allow guest access, and enhance security.

What's more, when you have Managed Wi-Fi, KMTelecom will handle a variety of Wi-Fi tasks for you:

- Selection of the best router location in your home for optimal coverage and signal strength from room to room
- Router installation
- Setup of your Wi-Fi security password to avoid others using your Wi-Fi network without your permission
- Connection of your devices — such as laptops, tablets, phones, and printer — to the Wi-Fi network
- Ongoing maintenance including router software upgrades for optimal performance
- Remote support should a Wi-Fi issue arise
- Repair or replacement of our router when needed

Keep this in mind: If you don't have Managed Wi-Fi and need in-home help with a router you purchased on your own, you'll have to pay the hourly fee for a service call by one of our technicians. This can get pricey if you end up with a series of Wi-Fi issues.

It really boils down to a simple choice. Do you want to spend your time doing all the necessary Wi-Fi network setup, maintenance, and troubleshooting? Or would you rather leave all that to us and just enjoy using your Wi-Fi with all your home's connected devices?

Managed Wi-Fi is included with KMTelecom's 1 Gig and 2 Gig internet plans or is available for a low monthly fee with others. To learn more about its features and to sign up for service, visit www.kmtel.com or call 507-634-2511.



Save Money by Rotating Your Streaming Services

Feeling like you're overspending on streaming services? You're not alone. A growing trend called streaming service rotation helps manage costs. The idea is simple: Subscribe to one or two services, watch the content you're interested in, then cancel and switch to others. This way, you enjoy top shows and movies without paying for every platform year-round. Most services are easy to pause and resume. There's one downside: Some platforms release episodes weekly to discourage this strategy, so you may need to wait to binge a full season — and risk spoilers in the meantime. Still, it's a smart way to save.

\$25

**Win a \$25
Credit on Your
KMTelecom Bill**

Fill out this form, clip it, and return it with your next bill by September 30th, 2025 for a chance to win a **\$25 credit** to your account. One winner per newsletter will be selected.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

To qualify for the drawing, please answer the question below. (The answer can be found in this issue.)

Who are KMTelecom's two newest employees?

Congratulations to our June 2025 winner, Mark Cassem, Kasson, MN.

Why a Guest Wi-Fi Network Makes Sense

When people visit your home, one of their first questions is likely to be, "What's your Wi-Fi password?" If your response is to give them the password for your main Wi-Fi network, you may want to think again. Revealing this information could pose a network security risk, since guests might accidentally download a malicious program or connect an already infected device to your network.

A better approach is to set up a guest Wi-Fi network with its own password. A guest Wi-Fi network is essentially a separate access point on your router, which allows visitors to access the internet without compromising the security of your main Wi-Fi network.

There are other benefits of having a guest Wi-Fi network. You can create a simpler password for guests that's shorter and easier for them to remember. You can also put a limit on the speed/bandwidth available to your visitors while you enjoy maximum performance and speed from your main Wi-Fi network

KMTelecom can help you set up a guest Wi-Fi network as part of our Managed Wi-Fi service. Call 507-634-2511 for details.

2025 Scholarship Recipients

At KMTelecom, we have long been proud supporters of students and their continuing education. Each year, we contribute to the scholarship funds at Kasson-Mantorville and Triton schools. This year, our contributions to those scholarship funds totaled \$10,600. We are pleased to recognize the following students as recipients of scholarships funded in part by KMTelecom's donation. Congratulations to each of you, and best wishes for success in your future endeavors!



Abby Barnum (K-M)

University of North Dakota
Major: Medical Laboratory Science
Parents: Melissa & Jason Barnum



Cohen Melcher (K-M)

University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Major: Wildlife Ecology & Management
Parents: Cresta & Kerry Melcher



Makenzie Carrier (K-M)

Northern State University
Major: Nursing or Biology
Parents: Jenny & Jamie Carrier



Emmett Oolman (K-M)

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Major: Electrical Engineering
Parents: Elizabeth & Dale Oolman



Jacey Heidt (K-M)

University of Nebraska
Major: Business Marketing & Administration
Parents: Denise & Jamie Heidt



Hailey Otterness (K-M)

University of Kansas
Major: Elementary Education
Parents: Sarah & Chris Otterness



Johanna Herfindahl-Quint (K-M)

University of St Thomas
Major: Psychology & Criminal Justice
Parents: Ingvild Herfindahl



Jonathan Schultz (K-M)

University of Wisconsin, Stout
Major: Applied Math & Computer Science
Parents: Laurie & Eric Schultz



AJ Kozisek (Triton)

University of Wisconsin, Stout
Major: Data & Actuarial Science
Parents: Tina & Jason Kozisek



Ella Stafford (K-M)

University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse
Major: Psychology
Parents: Erin Heaton & Michael Stafford



Ian Kujath (K-M)

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Major: History Education & Scenic Design
Parents: Nicole & Mark Kujath



Wyatt Sullivan (K-M)

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Major: Agricultural & Food Businesses Management
Parents: Carol & Timothy Sullivan



Corey Lilledahl (Triton)

University of Wisconsin, Madison
Major: Biology/Pre-Medicine
Parents: Tom & Kris Lilledahl

