

John F. Kennedy High School

1901 Randolph Rd

Silver Spring, MD 20902

301-929-2100

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/

February 2015



Message from the Principal

Dear John F. Kennedy High School parents and guardians,

With the second semester well under way, we want to thank everyone for your continued support of our students, teachers, and school as we collectively strive to provide optimal opportunities for learning each and every day. In addition, we want to also welcome our new families to Kennedy and trust that you will find yourselves part of an outstanding and supportive learning community.

This school year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy High School. Kennedy High School has a rich tradition of success. Our success is not new and is not unexpected. John F. Kennedy High School has produced thousands of successful students. The success we experience is an expectation of our staff, students, parents, and community.

Our graduation rate increased 3% last school year! We want to thank our families for your diligence in having your students at school on-time and well-prepared for learning each day. In addition, please continue to be mindful that our students' academic day continues until dismissal each afternoon, and it is very important that students are not dismissed early unless it is for an unavoidable appointment or emergency as valuable instruction from the teacher can be missed.

As always, thank you for supporting the wonderful teaching and learning taking place here at Kennedy!

Regards,

Joe L. Rubens

Joe L. Rubens, Principal

**JFKHS Celebrating 50 years
of Excellence**



COUNSELING NEWS

Greetings from the Counseling Office. The 2nd semester started off very smoothly. Students have met with Counselors to make adjustments to schedules in order to stay on the right path towards graduation. The month of February is packed as we prepare for Registration Season. During the 1st week of February, Counselors visited the 9 feeder Middle Schools to welcome 8th grade students to Kennedy High School and to go over the registration process. From February 9-20, Counselors worked with current 9th, 10th and 11th grade students in the Media Center and assisted them with class registration for next school year.

The Counseling Department would like to welcome Mr. Jacob Suter. Mr. Suter will be subbing as the 9th grade Counselor with the caseload of A-S. Our beloved Ms. Chavis has decided to stay home and enjoy the life of being a first time mom. Mr. Suter comes highly recommended and is ready to work with our current 9th grade students.

As always, the Counseling Department is here to support the students and the families when needed. Do not hesitate to contact us for resources, information and other helpful items

Donniel Gamble
Resource Counselor



Counseling Department: Mrs. Donniel Gamble, Mrs. Cara Haddaway, Mrs. Marisol Benitez, Mr. Victor Quiroz, Ms. Jenny Lyons, Mrs. Lexanne Wilson, Mrs. Katrellle Carroll, and Mrs. Sophia Wong (not pictured: Mr. Jacob Suter, Mrs. Grata Garcia-Catipon, Mrs. Tatiana Teixeira & Mrs. Shawn Guthrie

DESTINATION GRADUATION

The Class of 2018 made it through the first semester of their high school career! As we begin the second semester, take some time to talk with your child about his/her experience as a first time ninth grade student. Reflect about the highs and lows of first semester and think about the following questions: 1) did your child join an extracurricular activity? 2) Did your child take advantage of CAVS-X, Lunch and Learn, Saturday School on a regular basis? 3) Did you and your child check Edline regularly, and did you contact teachers when issues arose? 4) Did you reach out to your child's counselor, the ninth grade team leader, or the ninth grade administrator to discuss issues that may have impacted his/her grades? 5) If your child was not as successful as you would have liked, what can we all do differently this semester?

Feel free to contact the school if you'd like to set up a parent-teacher conference or observe your student in action for the day.

Tracey Wright
Ninth Grade Team Leader



A-Tech Department News

The Art Department will be hosting a showcase of Advanced Studio Artwork in the Rickerson Gallery during the months of January and February. This showcase includes selected pieces of recent work from IB Art, AP Art, and Ceramics II. Please stop by any time during school hours to enjoy exciting work by our Upper Level Student Artists.

The following Kennedy students were among 174 canvases and 221 photographs representing students from 20 of the county's high schools selected for the "Out of the Ordinary" show. A reception was held in the lobby of the 9605 Building on the county campus of Johns Hopkins University on January 29 at 6:30 p.m.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Ellis Edwards | Land Unknown |
| Enomeris Kokolo Fanwar | Discovery |
| Roberjo Merveille | Fusionable Love |

Register for IED; earn college credit and a technology credit at the same time!

Considering engineering as a career? Successful completion of the Introduction to Engineering and Design class not only will give you a leg up in college, but with a qualifying score on the end-of-course assessment students can obtain 3 college credits. Interested students should see their counsellor to register for this course next year.

Click on this link for details: <http://www.rit.edu/emcs/pltw/students-parents>

John Ekelund
A-Tech Resource Teacher



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE NEWS

As students get ready to register for classes for next year, they should all be thinking about what new opportunities and challenges they want to take on next year. One thing that college admissions officers have said they specifically look for is AP and IB classes. These college-level classes are open to all students at Kennedy who have taken the pre-requisites, regardless of your academy. In the case of IB classes, it generally means that you have to be a junior or a senior; and in many cases they can be great capstone experiences for your academy pathways. Electives like IB Film Studies, IB Visual Art, and IB Sports Health and Exercise Science can serve to enhance your experience in specific academy pathways, while classes like IB English and IB World History are appropriate for any academy and are excellent foundations for any college discussion classes.

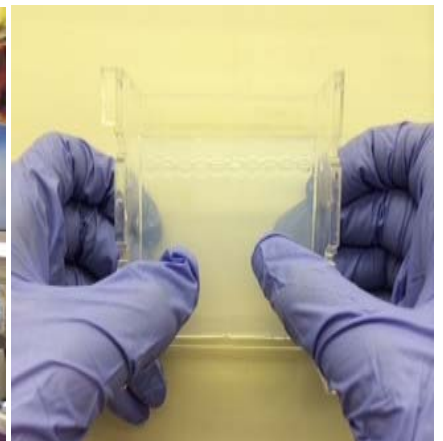
If you have any questions about IB classes, or want help mapping out a pathway that's right for you, please see Mrs. Wahrman in Room 105.

Stacey Wahrman
IB Coordinator



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

All of Kennedy's Biology students had the opportunity to visit the MdBioLab mobile science laboratory. The mobile lab truck was available to the students from January 21-23. MdBioLab aims to increase student interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. It is a custom-built mobile laboratory that serves high school students, and their teachers, throughout the state of Maryland. All students investigated "The Mystery of the Crooked Cell." The students explored the concepts of genetic disorders (Sickle Cell Anemia) and heredity while using scientific equipment and techniques such as gel electrophoresis. The students used gel electrophoresis to determine if their patient had normal blood cells or sickle-shaped blood cells. This proved to be a valuable learning experience for all of the students...a great way to open the second semester of the school year!



If you would like to know more about this or other activities and opportunities going on in the science classes, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank You!

Tamara B. Jennings ([Tamara B Jennings@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Tamara_B_Jennings@mcpsmd.org))

Science Resource Teacher

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."

John F. Kennedy

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

The Social Studies Department is excited about the beginning of second semester.

US History students will be learning about World War II.

NSL Students are learning about Establishing Justice and Protecting Rights.

Modern World History students are learning about both World War I and II.

Students are encouraged to bring course concepts into their daily conversations.

Keith Adams

Social Studies Resource Teacher



Luis Garay and Elizabeth Fuhrman

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT NEWS

The members of the *World Languages Department* welcome Ms. Avis Balkcom-Williams, who will be teaching Spanish 1 and 2.

Ms. La Rocca's *Italian 1* class will build upon their skills on using character traits from Semester 1 to describe their family members

In Madame Umarji's *French 4* class, students are reading a short story called Le Chandail de Hockey by Roch Carrier. As a related summative assessment, they will create a project on a Francophone sportsman.

Elmide Méléance

World Languages Resource Teacher

SGA NEWS

The Kennedy SGA is grateful for the strong school participation in our Manna Food Drive. All food donated feeds individuals right here in Montgomery County. Our efforts truly made a difference.

The SGA will be holding elections this month for new *Kennedy Congress* representatives. *Kennedy Congress* representatives are elected through Social Studies classes and meet once a quarter with SGA and class officers. They are then responsible for distributing information from those meetings to their Social Studies classes. If you are interested in running, please see Ms. Young in Room 206.

Stay tuned for information about spring activities.

Katherine Young

Student Government Association Sponsor



Hispanic Music and Latin Percussion from the Washington Performing Arts

"Each person must live their life as a model for others."

Rosa Parks



LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE NEWS

Second semester is fully underway. Our students are hard at work. Students have received letters of commendation as well as letters of probation. Our goal is to have everyone in the program performing at the LTI required GPA of 3.0.

Here is a listing of our students of the month for the first semester. They were voted worthy by their peers, who think very highly of them.

- 9th grade: Melanie Komolafe, Claire Awtrey
- 10th grade: Sally Morales, Mohit Hemnani, Mia Hickman
- 11th grade: Matthew Merchant, Faith Wade, Rebecca Wesley
- 12th grade: Sarah Meiselman, Nick Ovalles, Hally Moreno

We have some exciting things going on in LTI in the spring semester. There are two leadership conferences coming up in March (Student Leadership Conference) and April (Women's Leadership Conference). In late March, we will travel to Camp Letts for our annual LTI retreat. The cost of that trip will be \$82, which includes transportation, food, lodging, and all activities. Payments can be made online. In May we have our LTI banquet and say goodbye to the seniors. Before you blink, it will be June. (That's right, think warm thoughts in the face of all this cold!)

Upcoming dates:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| March 25-26 | Retreat at Camp Letts Cost: \$82 |
| April 22 | Women's Leadership Conference Hampton Inn at Downtown Silver Spring 5-7pm cost: \$20 8728-A Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20910 |

Kofi Frempong
Leadership Training Institute Coordinator

MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

We anticipate another outstanding learning opportunity at Kennedy High School in 2015. College Institute students began their spring semester on Monday, January 26th. Students are taking either Speech or Women's Studies. For the first time, some Kennedy High School students will take two college courses at our campus; (i.e., a student may register for Women's Studies on Monday and Wednesday, and then take Speech on Tuesday and Thursday).

In preparation for spring semester, new College Institute students will attend an Orientation Meeting at the Montgomery College Campus in Rockville.

Christine Aaron
College Institute (CI) Coordinator

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

PE: The Physical Education Department will start the second semester with a Fitness Unit. All P.E. classes will perform pre-test for the five fitness components (Cardio-Respiratory Endurance, Muscular Strength & Endurance, Flexibility, & Body Composition). All students are expected to change their clothes and fully participate every day.

Health Class: Health Teachers will start the semester off with the "Mental Health Unit". Students will learn about wellness, communication, goal setting, & decision making.

Brady Markel
Physical Education Resource Teacher



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Once again, students in Advanced Placement Language and Composition are participating in the WordWright Challenge, a national reading competition for students in grades 9 through 12 that requires analytical reading of many kinds of prose and poetry. It emphasizes perceptive interpretation, sensitivity to language, and an appreciation of style. More than 59,000 students from some of the best public and private high schools in 47 states participated last year.

Congratulations to the following top scorers for the first two meets: Ruby Tamraker, Faith Wade, Andraleecia Burnett, and Ricky Allen.

Students of the Month for December

Grade 9 – Trey Hill

Grade 10 – Martin Garcia

Grade 11 – Edwin Torres

Grade 12 – Sabrina Correa

John Howard
English Resource Teacher

NJROTC NEWS

Here is the February NJROTC list of highlights:

Friday, Feb 27: Annual Kennedy NJROTC Military Ball 6-10 p.m. at Forest Glen Knights of Columbus.

Commander Leonard Greig
NJROTC Senior Naval Science Instructor

MCPS NEWS

Public Hearings on Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

Superintendent Joshua Starr submitted a \$2.4 billion Recommended Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. Dr. Starr's recommendation, released on December 9, will allow the district to continue to manage its enrollment growth, while making strategic investments to narrow achievement gaps and prepare staff for the future. Visit the MCPS Operating Budget website to learn more about Dr. Starr's budget proposal.



Demonstrating the percussion world

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

THE KENNEDY DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS:



The Kennedy Drama Club is performing the seminal classic "The Wiz". Come ease on down the road with Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tin Man, the Lion, and all the favorites, as they make their way to the Great and Powerful Wiz to fulfill their deepest desires. This modern retelling of the timeless tale, "The Wizard of Oz", is sure to delight all ages. There are four showings, February 27, and 28, March 6 and 7, all at 7:00 p.m. Come out and support the Kennedy Drama Club, and leave singing and dancing to some of your favorite tunes. \$7 students and \$10 adults.

Phillip Utterback
Drama Director

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

The JFKHS Bocce Ball team, coached by Ms. Ms. Mitchell-Miller, has had an exciting season with only one loss!

ARS and LFI students are once again growing vegetables from seed under lights. Keep an eye out for announcements for their Spring Plant Sale.

CavaJava continues to expand their offerings--Watch for BIG CHANGES being announced shortly.

Kate Stephansky
Resource Center Resource Teacher

ACADEMY NEWS

Ninth graders should have completed their Academy Declaration Forms during their Academy Mentoring Period. Counselors will use these forms when guiding students through the registration process.

Seniors who will have completed their academy pathway by the end of the year should see Ms. K. Wright in the main office to order their cord for graduation.

Dr. Mary L Romanello, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions at Trinity Washington University, will be visiting Kennedy to speak with students about Trinity's programs leading to various medical careers including nursing, occupational therapy, exercise science, and science programs. Students in the Health and Medical Careers academies who are interested in meeting with her should see Ms. Marchwicki. Follow us on Twitter @JFKAcademies

Kaleisha_M_Wright@mcpsmd.org
Kaleisha Wright
Academies Coordinator



"Character is power."

Booker T. Washington

ESOL DEPARTMENT NEWS

We are very excited to begin a new semester here at Kennedy!
If you celebrated the Orthodox Christmas, "Melkem Genna".

For all ESOL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and those who refused ESOL services, at the end of January and early February the mandated state tests will be administered to your child in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It's called the ACCESS/WIDA tests. The State of Maryland requires us to test all students in these four domains. We will test most students January 28 and 29 and February 5 and 6. It is important that your child tries his or her best on these tests. These tests determine your child's English placement for next year. You will get the results in May.

These students worked very hard in December and received ESOL Student of the Month:

ESOL 1

Nohely Penate
Silvia Flores
Juver Perez

ESOL MATH Classes

Sualy Hernandez
Nohely Penate

ESOL 2

Karla Amaya
Deborah Alvarado.

ESOL 4

Yael Reyes
Dennys Guevara

ESOL 5

Jiruwak Tollessa

Elizabeth Fuhrman

ESOL Resource Teacher



Staff and students participating with Luis Garay Percussion World in a Hispanic Music / Latin Percussion Assembly

"All great achievements require time."

Maya Angelou

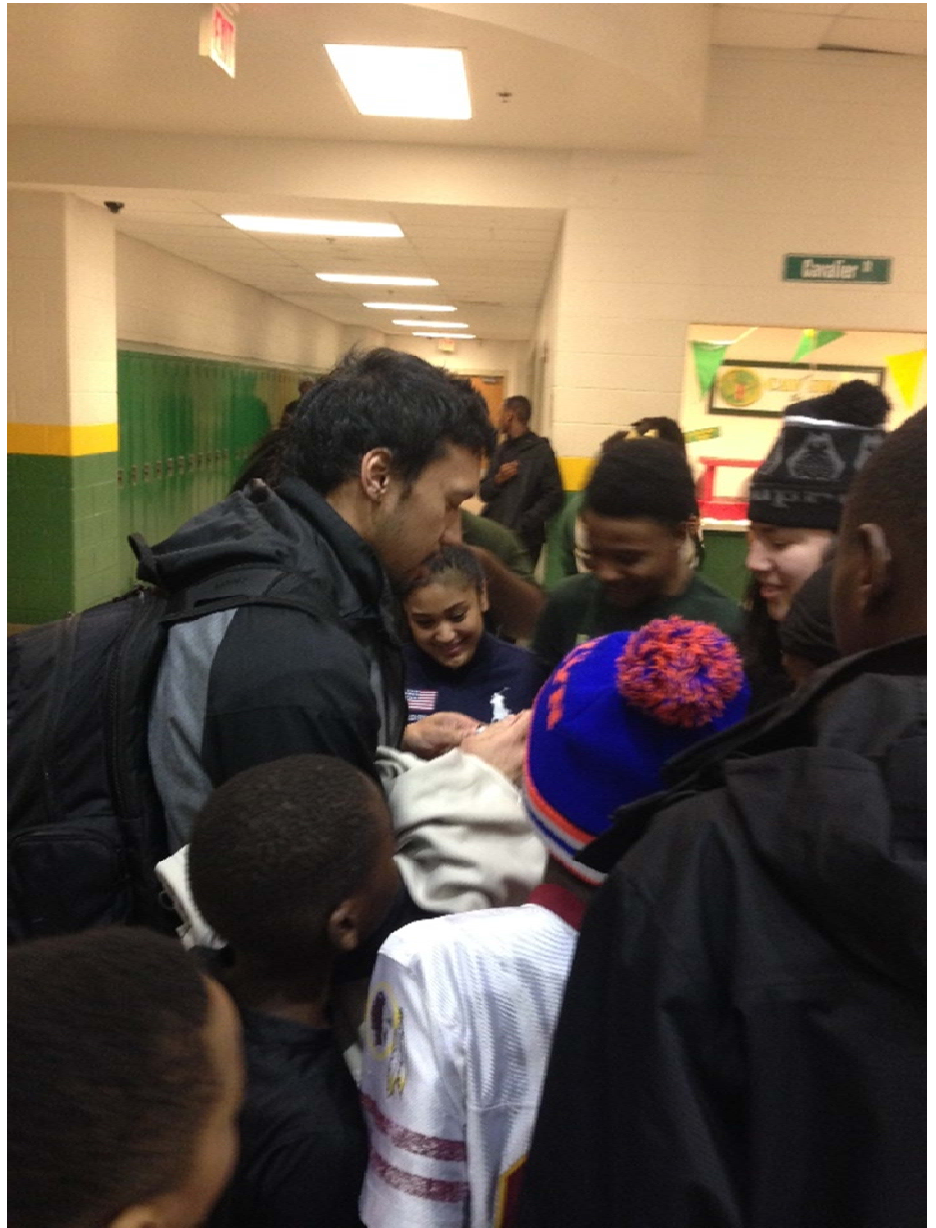
UPCOMING EVENTS

2/27 Girls' Varsity Basketball
(playoff)
JFK @ Churchill, 7:00pm

JFK Drama Department
Presents "The Wiz", 7:00pm

2/28 Boys' Varsity Basketball
(playoff)
JFK @ Blair, 3:00pm

JFK Drama Department
Presents "The Wiz", 7:00pm



Washington Redskins running back Roy Helu Jr. signing autographs with Kennedy students