

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

1901 RANDOLPH ROAD, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20902

MAIN OFFICE (240) 740-0100 ♦ MAIN OFFICE FAX (301) 929-2240 ♦ COUNSELING (240) 740-0105

August 24, 2020

Dear Cavalier Students and Families:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 2020-2021 academic school year! It is my fervent hope that this letter finds you enjoying a summer filled with some well-deserved relaxation. We are looking forward to the many diverse learning experiences that will take place for our students this school year. Our goal is to continue to challenge our students intellectually, guide them socially, and promote critical and creative thinking and problem-solving skills, virtually, and once it safe to do so, in person. We will continue to encourage students to demonstrate the best of themselves every moment of everyday and to make positive contributions to the John F. Kennedy High School community. We are planning for an exciting and successful school year!

Outlined below are the vision and mission statements for our school:

Vision

John F. Kennedy High School is a multicultural community of stakeholders which provides an engaging and rigorous academic program and promotes a growth mindset, in a respectful environment, that enables all students to achieve to their fullest potential as global citizens.

Mission

Our mission is to collaborate with all stakeholders to achieve success for all students by participating in professional development that builds the capacity of staff to enable them to implement and monitor a rigorous instructional program, resulting in globally competent students prepared for college and careers, and by regularly monitoring our school improvement action plan.

The summers are never long enough, but I trust that you are rejuvenated, energized, and ready to get back to our important work. Last school year brought the JFK High School community many accolades. John F. Kennedy High School was named to the 2020 US News and World Reports Best High Schools list. In addition, we are thrilled to announce that our school has been designated as a Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) regional International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet School for the 2020-2021 school year. Building on last year's successes, our school will continue to focus on rigorous academics and relationship building. Communication will also continue to be a priority this school year. You will continue to receive Connect Ed messages from me on Sunday evenings to keep you updated on school events.

Plans to finalize the start of the school year will be complete after the August 25, 2020, Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education meeting. I am excited about the upcoming school year! In preparation for the new school year, we have all been hard at work for you. Over the summer, our talented staff have participated in various workshops and trainings in effort to increase their use of technology and to deliver on-line lessons that are engaging and meaningful, to ensure that every student is engrossed in rigorous and advanced studies. As principal, I am dedicated to leading the effort to continue to improve our academic achievement, school culture, and community engagement to enhance every JFK High School student's educational experience. My philosophy is as follows:

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- I believe in demonstrating compassion for the needs of our students, teachers, parents, and community.
- I believe in continuing to organize our school into a professional learning community for our teachers, students, parents, and community to drive student achievement.
- I believe in providing the best educational services to our students, parents, and community.

Our continued school focus will be on providing each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding high school experience. Academic emphasis on the core content areas of math, reading, English/language arts, science, and social studies will remain a priority as well as providing a learning program that builds each year to reach local and state standards. Instruction in the fine arts, world language, technology, and health/physical education complete our program providing each student with the opportunity to develop areas of interest and skill.

Parents and guardians, please remember that this is *your* school and we welcome and encourage your involvement. Additional communication networks, including weekly updates/Connect Ed messages, our school Twitter feed: @KennedyMCPSPrin, our school newspaper, the New Frontier, are established to keep you up to date about what is happening at our school. I would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing hard work and support at home with your child and strongly encourage you to join and become a member of the John F. Kennedy High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). The continuing connection between school and home is vital to your child's success at school. We need students, parents, and community members, to work with us actively and consistently throughout the year. We want your input; we need your participation and commitment to our very important work.

As we prepare to welcome students on Monday, August 31, 2020, I want to share some information that might be helpful as you plan for the 2020-2021 school year. On the next pages, you will find general information that is important for you and your child to know. I will send out a Connect Ed phone call with more details as we approach the first day of school. If you have any questions about the information on the next page, please contact the school by phone at (240) 740-0100.

Important MCPS Parent Portal Information

On August 21, activation emails and letters for the new parent portal were sent to MCPS parents/guardians. If a parent/guardian has an email on file with our school/MCPS, an email with activation instructions were sent to you. If a parent/guardian does not have an email on file, information will be mailed to the parent/guardian's home address. If a parent/guardian is having difficulty with activating their accounts, or if they do not receive a communication, they can contact the MCPS help line at 240-740-7020.

Student Login Information

Beginning August 23, emails were sent to all families with student login and password information. This information will be used to log into StudentVUE, myMCPS Classroom and other core MCPS platforms that students will need to access virtual learning. Passwords will NOT be changed for the start of the year. Students can continue to use their passwords from last year. If a student has difficulty accessing their account, they can contact the MCPS help line at 240-740-7020.

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Technology Webinars for Parents

MCPS and MCCPTA have developed a Parent Webinar Series with sessions this week. There are sessions offered on the following topics:

Understanding Your MCPS Digital Backpack

Getting Started with ParentVUE (the new parent portal)

ParentVUE Online Registration for Annual Verification of Information

Accessing Zoom Meetings

Supporting Your Student: myMCPS Classroom Navigation

Supporting Your Student: myMCPS Classroom Assignments

For more information on these and to register click the link below.

If you miss these, they will be recorded and placed on the MCPS website.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S7qQJcm_zk4yQUtRPPZY7uoo16govBitrtMUPHljav0/preview?pru=AAABdESldCs*jZfV_VHCzafMAoRY_NE8PQ

Chromebook and Materials Distribution

Round 1 of Chromebook and materials distribution days for students are Monday, August 24 – Thursday, August 27, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., outside of our auditorium. The distribution schedule was shared via email last week. This information can also be found on the home page of our school website. Please note, there are many items from last school year that were not returned. Our school business administrator and athletics specialist will be on site to collect items and satisfy obligations. Please contact Ms. Keir Lewis, assistant principal, with questions.

Virtual Parent Informational Meetings

Virtual JFK parent information meetings regarding the upcoming school year are Monday, August 24 – Thursday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m. The grade level meeting information shared with you via email, it can also be found on our school website, and school Twitter feed. Parents/guardians will need to access these meetings using their child's MCPS Gmail account.

Grade 9/New Student Orientation Day

Thursday, August 27 is Grade 9 and new student orientation day. We are looking forward to meeting our newest Cavaliers! Student orientation day will take place virtually from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., via Zoom. Additional orientation day information will be shared with students and families during the week of August 24. Please contact Dr. Vaughn Bradley, assistant principal, with questions.

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Class of 2021 Graduation Requirements

As of August 24, 2020, there are no changes to graduation requirements. We know last school year, with the emergency closure, the state of Maryland adjusted SSL and testing requirements. Additionally, there was also change in the mathematics requirements, however, as of right now nothing has changed for you. We are preparing for you to meet all of the graduation requirements.

Class of 2021 Senior Portraits

Normally senior portraits are taken over the summer here at school. Currently, all MCPS school buildings are still closed for students and parents, thus senior portraits have not been scheduled. We are working with our photo company and our central office on a process to get senior portraits scheduled. We will have more information to share in September.

Immunizations - All students' immunization records must be updated. Please make sure your child's records are up to date and completed on or before **Monday, August 31, 2020**. Proper documentation of required immunizations must be received before you can enroll your child in school.

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has requested that the following information regarding pediatric vaccinations and frequently asked questions (FAQ) be shared with parents and guardians. Because of the stay-at-home orders to minimize the spread of COVID-19, many families postponed wellness checks with their children's healthcare providers, resulting in students not receiving vaccinations required for the 2020–2021 school year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that there has been a significant decrease in vaccinations ordered and administered by healthcare providers in April 2020 when compared to April 2019.

Maryland State requires students receive vaccinations on a schedule determined by the CDC in order to attend preschool programs and schools (Attachment C). Students may be exempted from these requirements if a healthcare provider states that the vaccinations are medically contraindicated or for religious objections.

- Students entering Kindergarten, or Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 must provide documentation that they have received two doses of Varicella vaccinations and two doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccinations, in addition to those they would have received between birth and age five years.
- Students entering Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 must provide documentation that they have received one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) and one dose of Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccination.

Parents/guardians may contact their healthcare provider for a copy of their children's vaccination records to verify which vaccinations have been received to date. In addition, parents/guardians can view and print their children's vaccination records at the Maryland Department of Health Center for Immunization website: <https://md.myir.net/> All healthcare providers in Maryland now are required to record vaccinations administered on ImmuNet, Maryland's secure immunization information system.

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Important Dates:

August 24, 2020 - Student Chromebook Upgrade and Materials Distribution, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

August 24, 2020 - Senior Family Virtual Information Meeting, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

August 25, 2020 - Student Chromebook Upgrade and Materials Distribution, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

August 25, 2020- MCPS Board of Education Meeting: Finalizing the Fall Recovery Plan, 12:00 p.m.

August 25, 2020 - Junior Family Virtual Information Meeting, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

August 26, 2020 - Student Chromebook Upgrade and Materials Distribution, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

August 26, 2020 - MCPS anticipated release date for instructional bell schedules and student schedules

August 26, 2020 - Sophomore Family Virtual Information Meeting, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

August 27, 2020 - Virtual New Student Orientation, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

August 27, 2020 - Student Chromebook Upgrade and Materials Distribution, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

August 27, 2020 - Freshman Family Virtual Information Meeting, “JFK 101,” 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

August 31, 2020 - First Day of School (Virtual Classes)

September 4, 2020 - Early Release Day

September 7, 2020 - No School for Students and Staff

September 10, 2020- Virtual Back to School Night, 6:30 p.m.

September 23, 2020 - Virtual College Financial Aid Night, 6:00 p.m.

September 28, 2020 - No School for Students and Teachers

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School Administration, Counseling, Resource Teachers, Coordinators, and Main Office Staff

ADMINISTRATION	Dr. Joe L. Rubens, Principal Dr. Vaughn M. Bradley, Assistant Principal (9 th grade) Mr. Karlin S. Hirschfeld, Assistant Principal (10 th grade) Ms. Kaleisha M. Wright, Assistant Principal (11 th grade) Ms. Keir N. Lewis, Assistant Principal (12 th grade) Ms. Marjorie D. Peoples, School Business Administrator
School Counseling	
Pupil Personnel Worker	Ms. Kassie Cardona
School Psychologist	Ms. Kimberly Batten
Resource Counselor (Grade 9, last name Ce-E, ARS, LFI, SCB)	Ms. Donniel Gamble
Counselor (Grades 9 – 12, last name A-Ca)	Ms. Crystal Small
Counselor (Grades 10-12, last name Ce-E and MYP/IB Diploma Students)	Ms. Lexanne Wilson
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name F – J)	Ms. Kelli Henderson-Petti
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name K - M)	Ms. Cara Haddaway
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name N - R)	Mr. Victor Quiroz
Counselor (Grades 9 – 12, last name S-Z)	Ms. Shawn Guthrie
Counselor (Grades 9-12 English Language Proficiency Levels 1 & 2)	Ms. Betsy Ramirez
ESOL Counselor (9-12) Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays	Ms. Karla Lepinsky
College and Career Information Coordinator	Ms. Janae Robinson-Casey
Departments	Instructional Leadership Team
Academy Coordinator	Mr. Casey Siddons
Arts/Music/Technology	Ms. Dawn Gibbons
Athletics	Ms. Amanda Twele
English/Reading	Mr. Phillip Utterback
ESOL	Ms. Jennifer Delorge McKeown
Grade 9 Team Leader/Intervention Coordinator	Ms. Charlotta Whitney
Grade 12 Team Leader/Intervention Coordinator	Ms. Diona Page
International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme & Advanced Placement AP Coordinator	Ms. Kia Davis
Leadership Training Institute (LTI) Coordinator	Mr. Kofi Frempong
Middle Years Program Coordinator	Ms. Shannon James

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Mathematics	Mr. Reginald Wright
Media Center	Ms. Leyla Fandey
NJROTC	Commander Lawrence Bateman
PE & Health	Mr. Leonard Myers
Science	Ms. Niambi Wills
Social Studies	Ms. Casie Lanigan
Special Services	Mr. Kevin Jefferson
Staff Development Teacher	Dr. Catharine Ferguson
Student Service Learning (SSL)	Ms. Lexanne Wilson
World Languages	Ms. Elmide Meleance

Support Professionals	Name	Assignment
Main Office	Ms. Ingrid Higgins	Principal's Administrative Assistant
Main Office	Ms. Glenda Chevez	Attendance Secretary
Main Office	Ms. Fiorela Guzman	Main Office Secretary
Main Office	Ms. Lauren Murchison	Main Office Secretary
Main Office	Ms. Marian Roberts	Main Office Secretary
Counseling	Ms. Jennifer Lyons	Counseling Secretary
Counseling	Ms. Sophia Wong	Registrar
School Finance	Ms. Wendy Davis	School Financial Specialist
Building Services	Mr. Salifu Abdul-Lahi	Building Services Manager
Health Room	Dr. Celeste Amadei	School Nurse
Health Room	Ms. Eileen Curtis	Health Technician
Cafeteria	Ms. Shanta Nanan	Cafeteria Manager
Security	Ms. Alicia Shelton	Team Leader
Parent Student Teacher Association (PTSA)	Ms. Amie Wohlfarth simplyamie831@gmail.com	PTSA President

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Please enjoy the remaining days of summer. I look forward to working with you as we continue to transform John F. Kennedy High School into the premier high school in Montgomery County. The staff and I are excited to see everyone virtually on August 31, 2020. We are energized and enthusiastic about the upcoming school year. Our data shows that we are most definitely a school on the rise. I look forward to our future endeavors and serving as your principal. Thank you for taking the time to review this information.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joe L. Rubens
Principal



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@JFKAcademies