

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 8, 2022

Dear Cavalier Students and Families:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 2022-2023 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/creative thinking and problem-solving skills, in addition to inclusiveness, anti-racism and social justice.** 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 (JFK) 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 aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring global citizens, who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Mission

To create an ideal learning community that will prepare all students to realize their fullest potential, we develop rigorous academic programs and inclusive social structures that promote a culture of respect and high standards. Our shared commitment to social justice demands that we are intentionally and deliberately anti-biased, anti-racist, student-centered, and equity focused.

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. For the sixth year, John F. Kennedy High School was named to the 2022 US News and World Reports Best High Schools list. 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 updates through Synergy on Parent VUE and Student VUE and Connect Ed messages from me on Sunday evenings to keep you updated on school events.

We are so excited to see our students on August 29. Throughout the summer our talented staff has participated in various professional development workshops to ensure that every student is supported in any way they need. Our school building and campus have received a major facelift including a new addition, with a state-of-the-art science and technology wing, additional classrooms, a parking garage, a turf field, and a wellness center.

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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:

- 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 and customer 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, 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 **our 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, and KCTV, 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 29, 2022, I want to share some information that might be helpful as you plan for the 2022-2023 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 following pages, please contact the school by phone at (240) 740-0100.

School Bus Routes: Please see the attached school bus route information. School bus route information is also posted to our website.

Arrival:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/high-schools/a-j/kennedyhs/kennedy-hs-22-23---815---reg-arr.pdf>

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Departure:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/high-schools/a-j/kennedyhs/kennedy-hs-22-23---815---reg-dep.pdf>

*Note: Regional magnet and special services bus routes will be shared with families as soon as they are finalized.

Important Reminder MCPS Parent VUE Information: The parent component of Synergy, known as ParentVUE, replaced the myMCPS Parent Portal last school year. This new tool provides near real-time access to information on assignments and scores, attendance, class schedules, transcripts, graduation status and more. You may access ParentVUE online, but for the best mobile experience, we encourage you to download the ParentVUE App from the Google Play Store and Apple Store.

ParentVUE provides options to submit forms online, submit emergency card information, register for athletics, apply to MCPS special programs, and communicate more easily with teachers and staff.

To get started with your new ParentVUE account:

- Navigate to https://md-mcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Activate_Account_Privacy_Parent.aspx?field1=8ND6huUHTcqHhHJcfuOoTBd0rzOq20ODTiEfdASmXs%3d
- Review the Privacy Statement and select "I Accept"
- Enter your new parent account credentials (user name, password, and primary email address)

It is critical for parents and guardians to be connected to the school through the MCPS Parent VUE. If you have any questions regarding your account, please contact our media specialist, Ms. Leyla Fandey at Leyla_Fandey@mcpsmd.org.

Calendar for 2022-2023: Please see the link below to the MCPS school year calendar which lists the major dates for the school year.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/>

Chromebook Distribution: Chromebook devices will be distributed to **Grade 9 students, students who are new to MCPS, and any student who did not receive a device last school year**, on Friday, August 19, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., and Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Student Orientation and Bus Schedules: **On Thursday, August 25, 2022, we will have a student orientation for all incoming 9th grade students and any incoming student that is new to JFK.** For students who ride a school bus, transportation will be provided to and from school. The orientation program will last until 11:30 a.m. We encourage all students new to JFK to attend this orientation so that they can meet their teachers and get a head start for the school year.

Incoming Grade 9 Parent Meeting “JFK 101”: On Thursday, August 25, 2022, we will have our incoming 9th grade parent meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Parents of upperclassmen who are new to JFK are welcome to attend this meeting.

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School Attendance: Regular school attendance is required. Students are expected to report to school on time and be prepared each day. The school day for high school students is from **7:45 a.m.** to **2:30 p.m.**, unless they participate in after-school activities. If your child is going to be absent, please be sure to send in a note with your child when they return to school. A doctor's note will be required for absences of three or more days. Finally, to ensure that students receive the maximum instructional time, students will not be called out of class for phone messages and parents should avoid conflicts that interfere with class attendance.

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 29, 2022**. Proper documentation of required immunizations must be received before you can enroll your child in school.

Lockers: All students will be assigned a locker during the first week of school.

Applying for Free and Reduced Meals:

ONLINE FARMS APPS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

www.MySchoolApps.com

is **NOW OPEN** for parents to complete and submit
the **2022–2023 Online application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals!**

**FAMILIES CAN APPLY NOW & AVOID LONGER PROCESSING TIMES IN
SEPTEMBER!**

Important Dates (August and September):

- Friday, August 19, 2022 - Chromebook devices will be distributed to Grade 9 students, students who are new to MCPS, and any student who did not receive a device last school year, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, August 25, 2022 – Grade 9 and new student orientation day, 7:45 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, August 25, 2022 - Chromebook devices will be distributed to Grade 9 students, students who are new to MCPS, and any student who did not receive a device last school year, from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 25, 2022 - Grade 9 Parent Information Meeting “JFK 101,” Thursday, August 25, 6:30 p.m. (JFK cafeteria)
- **Monday, August 29, 2022 - First Day of School**
- Monday, September 5, 2022 - Holiday, no school for students, schools and offices are closed
- **Thursday, September 8, 2022 - Back to School Night**, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 14, 2022 – Early release day for students
- Monday, September 26, 2022 – No school for students and teachers
- Friday, September 30, 2022 – Early release day for students

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

ADMINISTRATION	Dr. Joe L. Rubens, Principal Ms. DeyJah A. Chappell, Assistant Principal (9 th grade) Ms. Kirsten N. Jackson, Assistant Principal (10 th grade) Dr. Vaughn M. Bradley, Assistant Principal (11 th grade) Mr. Samuel G. Levine, Assistant Principal (12 th grade) Ms. Ingrid G. Higgins, School Business Administrator
School Counseling	
Pupil Personnel Worker	Ms. Kassie Cardona
School Psychologist	Ms. Kimberly Medina
School Social Worker	Ms. Naomi Johnson
Parent Community Coordinator	Ms. Mirna Medrano-Romero
Resource Counselor (ARS, LFI, SCB Programs)	Ms. Donniel Gamble
Counselor (Grades 9 – 12, last name A-Ca)	Ms. Jana Walters
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name Ce-De, MYP Cohort and IB Diploma students)	Ms. Lexanne Wilson
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name Di-F)	Ms. Lisa Estwick
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name G – K)	Ms. Kelli Henderson-Petty
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name L - M)	Ms. Cara Haddaway
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name N – R)	Mr. Yvan Gelbard
Counselor (Grades 9-12, last name S - Z)	Ms. Shawn Guthrie
EML Counselor	Ms. Karla Lepinsky
College and Career Information Coordinator	Ms. Janae Robinson-Casey
Registrar	Ms. Jennifer Lyons
Counseling Secretary	Mr. Carlos Ulloa
Departments	Instructional Leadership Team
Academy Coordinator	Ms. Jennifer Granados
Arts/Music/Technology	Ms. Farolyn Taylor
Athletics	Ms. Amanda Twele
English/Reading	Ms. Fatima Binta-Calhoun
EML	Ms. Jennifer Delorge McKeown
Grade 9 Team Leader/Intervention Coordinator	Ms. Nicole Turner
Grade 12 Team Leader/Intervention Coordinator	Ms. Diona Page
International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme	Ms. Kia Davis
Advanced Placement AP Coordinator	Mr. Kevin Mendez
International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) Coordinator	Ms. Erin Radebe
Leadership Training Institute (LTI) Coordinator	Mr. Kofi Frempong
Mathematics	Mr. Reginald Wright

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Media Center	Ms. Leyla Fandey
NJROTC	Commander Lawrence Bateman
Health and Physical Education	Mr. Leonard Myers
Science	Ms. Je’Nelle Henderson
Social Studies	Ms. Casie Lanigan
Special Services	Ms. Eriel Jeffery
Staff Development Teacher	Mr. Christopher Klein
Student Service Learning (SSL)	Ms. Lexanne Wilson
World Languages	Ms. Elmide Meleance

Support Professionals	Name	Assignment
Main Office	Ms. Carolina Pinkney	Principal’s Administrative Assistant
Main Office	Ms. Glenda Chevez	Attendance Secretary
Main Office	Ms. Mary Montano	Main Office Secretary
Main Office	Ms. Lauren Murchison	Main Office Secretary
Main Office	TBA	Main Office Secretary
Counseling	Mr. Carlos Ulloa	Counseling Secretary
Counseling	Ms. Jennifer Lyons	Registrar
School Finance	Ms. Larissa Prentice	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	Mr. Carlos Smith	Team Leader
Parent Student Teacher Association (PTSA)	Ms. Kristen Walker Painemilla (kfpainemilla@gmail.com)	PTSA President
Parent Student Teacher Association (PTSA)	Mr. Ricky Ribeiro (rickyr.83@gmail.com)	PTSA Vice President
Parent Student Teacher Association (PTSA)	Ms. Kirsten Murray (Kirsten_m_murray@yahoo.com)	PTSA Secretary
NAACP Representative	Mr. Ricky Ribeiro (rickyr.83@gmail.com)	NAACP Rep

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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 in person on **Monday, August 29, 2022**. We are energized and enthusiastic about the upcoming school year. Thank you for taking the time to review this information.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joe L. Rubens
Principal



Follow us on Twitter at: **@KennedyMCPSPrin**
@JFKAcademies
@JfkCcic
@athletics_jfk