



# Building the next generation of Commanders

## Prospective Student Events & Outreach to Middle Schools

JFK has built strong partnerships with various neighboring middle schools. These partnerships allow for opportunities to provide middle schoolers with high school mentors, invite middle schoolers to attend high school plays and sporting events and gain access to JFK staff during their school events throughout the year. JFK's strongest partnership is with its primary feeder middle school (Bear Valley International School [BVIS]). Some of the activities between the two schools include:

- JFK's band director visits with BVIS students, building a pipeline between schools for music education. The Arts department has created events and festivals that allow students to perform together, including Arts Night in the Spring and community music festivals in the Winter. A lot of these events are designed for the larger Southwest Denver community in order to bring back arts to the students, families, and community.
- JFK's STEM department participates in Science Day at BVIS, which also serves as a recruitment opportunity into JFK's CareerConnect programming. JFK High School engineering students mentor BVIS students in ongoing STEM activities throughout the year.

Each year, JFK also hosts several prospective student events as a unique way for these students to learn about the various programs offered at JFK. For example, JFK invites middle schools in Southwest Denver to bring their entire 8th grade class on a field trip to JFK so they can experience first-hand what it is like to be a Commander. Shadow Days are also offered once a week during November, December, and January for a more individualized experience. Finally, JFK hosts an Incoming Freshman "Block Party" to open its doors to future students/families, current students/families and community members to celebrate the new Freshmen class.



JFK Student Ambassadors posing with 8th graders at 2019 DPS 8th grade career fair



JFK Assistant Principal Rick Brewer poses with Grant Ranch 8th graders to welcome them to JFK VIP Day



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### Ready for 2024 & 9th Grade Academy

JFK is one of three schools in DPS that is offering the "Ready for 2024" program in the summer of 2020 from July 13th to August 7th. This is an opt-in (now online) program that is designed to prepare incoming freshman to understand JFK culture systems, what the PRIDE values represent and what it means to be a Commander both in academics and action. JFK also provides them with an authentic curriculum that is geared toward Math, English, and college and career readiness. The last week of that program is the mandatory Freshman Academy which assists incoming freshman in their transition to high school. This program gives the incoming freshmen a chance to attend JFK before most of the upperclassmen arrive. This also provides them an opportunity to get to know their school, meet some of their teachers, and work with Link Crew leaders on building school spirit. JFK goes beyond the traditional "academic" focus of the program by including several fun team-building activities, as well as breakout sessions led by members of the JFK Whole Child support team.

### Link Crew

Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, Boomerang Project's proven high school transition program trains mentors from junior and senior classes to be Link Crew Leaders. As positive role models, Link Crew Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school and help facilitate freshman success. Studies show that if students have a positive experience during their first year in high school, their chance for success increases dramatically. Link Crew provides the structure for freshmen to receive support and guidance from juniors and seniors who have been through the challenges that high school poses and understand that the transition to a larger school can sometimes be overwhelming.

### DID YOU KNOW?

JFK Link Crew was awarded \$1,000 in 2019 courtesy of DRIVE for Education with Groove Auto to directly impact students, JFK's facilities and teachers



**JFK Link Crew members proudly display the \$1,000 award granted to the school**



**JFK Link Crew welcomes students working to get back on track academically at Cocoa and Cram**