

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Students and Families,

On Thursday of last week, we invited an outside educational consultant group called School Works to visit our school and collect data on how we are engaging students in rigorous coursework, how we are including and serving all diverse learners, and our school culture. I want to share our strengths and areas of growth --

Strengths:

1. Students behave according to expectations in most classrooms.
2. Teachers provide a supportive learning environment.
3. Staff and students noted the increased presence of administration.

Areas for Growth:

1. We are lacking a clear vision and mission.
2. We need to increase the support we provide for students who are not meeting grade level expectations and for English Language Learners.

The Leadership Team and I are meeting in the upcoming weeks to plan to improve in our areas for growth as well as plan for the 2019-20 school year and beyond.

We are looking for 5 - 7 students and parents/guardians to provide feedback on our plans for the 19-20 school year and beyond. This group will also be comprised of teachers, and the commitment will be no more than 3 - 5 two hour meetings over the next school year. If you are committed to the continuous improvement of Kennedy, and are interested in joining this Advisory Board, please email me at tiffany_almon@dpsk12.org.

If you cannot join the Advisory Board, no problem! We will be sending out a survey on this week to give input on how to improve Kennedy.

With Gratitude,
Tiffany Almon
Principal

THIS WEEK'S UPDATES:

- ★ Students can now earn 1.0% toward their attendance percentage for attending office hours with their teachers.
- ★ **HUGE SHOUT OUT TO OUR CUSTODIAL STAFF!!! They were recognized for JFK being the cleanest school in SW Denver.**
- ★ [Here](#) are the minutes from last week's CSC meeting.
- ★ The School Store is open every day after school near the entrance to the cafeteria.
- ★ Kona Ice will be at Kennedy on Tuesday from lunch time until after school. Bring money to get a Kona Ice!

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Updates from the Future Center:

College applications & Financial Aid

- ★ 50% of the senior class have submitted one application! Woo-ho
- ★ Of that, **31 students** have already been **accepted** into college, and **66** students have **completed their FAFSA** application or **Financial Aid application** (Dreamer and undocumented students do not submit FAFSA's so we count the applications they submit to each individual institution)

Events & Field Trips

- ★ We've hosted **21 events; 2 Field Trips** to CSU and UNC, **14 college rep visits, 2 Free College App Days** and **3 Scholarship preparation workshops**. Phew!
- ★ Serving **411** students all together!

Looking Ahead

- ★ In the upcoming month we will be hosting De Stress Fest, a time where we welcome seniors and all students into our room to distress during finals.
- ★ On Nov 20th we have partnered with Colorado Academy to provide our Student Athletes a chance to get information and knowledge on the college athletic recruiting system.
- ★ We are working to partner with the engineering department with a recruiter from the Navy to talk to students about the Navy's engineering program.
- ★ Having a booth at the 8th grade experience days during the week of the 18th

ARCHIVED UPDATES and REMINDERS:

- ★ Please check out this [site](#) for the new graduation requirements that begin next school year.
- ★ Students must have their school ID on them every day! This is one way that we can keep our students safe. We are requiring that all students who have off periods and want to work in the cafeteria show their school ID with their off periods sticker.
- ★ Please download the [Flyer app](#) and search John F. Kennedy High to receive ongoing updates about Kennedy.
- ★ Do you need **Internet service** at home to complete homework or do research for assignments? Request a Hot Spot from Laurentz Gilmore at laurentz_gilmore@dpsk12.org to rent a free Hot Spot from Sprint for the school year. The Hot Spot has enough data for one student to complete homework each night.
- ★ Fridays are **COLLEGE SPIRIT DAYS** wear your college gear!
- ★ Students can earn 1.0% point towards their attendance by attending City Year After School tutoring from 3 - 4 in the cafe. You must have a permission slip signed by parent/guardian to attend after school (you can get a permission slip from Ambrosia in the main office). If you have an off period, you can work with City Year in the cafeteria on homework or Khan Academy and earn 0.5% points towards your attendance. You must work the entire off period to earn this 0.5% point.
- ★ Students are welcome to join their teachers or other staff members for lunch AND to receive support before, after school, and during lunch; but, **a pass is required**. Students can receive a reusable pass from the teacher/staff member they wish to visit or the library and Future Center during the school day.
- ★ Robo calls will go home when a student has an unexcused absence. Please excuse absences within 24 hours. Reach out to Tiffany (720-423-4330) if you are experiencing issues with our attendance line. We aim to provide excellent customer service, and I need to know when we are not meeting this expectation.
- ★ If you need to pick up your student, please **come into the main office** and we will call your student's class

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to send them down. For security reasons, we prefer that you come in rather than calling our main line.

- ★ Students are required to wear **laneyards** and bring their ID each day so that staff can easily identify upperclassmen and Freshmen with permission who can leave campus for lunch. This also helps to quickly identify who has an off period when schedules are printed on the back of student i.d.s.
- ★ Students with a valid driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance can purchase a parking pass for \$20 in the main lobby beginning Monday. We require students who park in our student lot to have a parking pass.
- ★ If you would like to join the Commander Connection, our parent/guardian teacher student association, please email Tiffany at tiffany_almon@dpsk12.org. The Commander Connection meets the first Wednesday of every month from 7 - 8PM in the JFK Cafeteria.

Important Dates

For a list of games and events see our [Calendar](#)

Commanders Show P.R.I.D.E.

P professionalism

R respect

I inclusion

D dedication

E excellence

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