

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Students and Families,

We had a successful first week of the second semester, and it was so wonderful to see your faces, reconnect with you, and meet with families. Teachers launched into instruction and re-set expectations for P.R.I.D.E. in the classroom as well as school wide expectations around our cell phone and headphone policy. See page 25 in our [JFK Student Handbook](#) for the language of the policy that has been in place all year and last year.

Some of you have expressed dissatisfaction with our cell phone policy; therefore, I'd like to take this opportunity to be clear about WHY we have this policy to keep cell phones out of site or to check cell phones in at the beginning of class to a safe cell phone holder. Simply stated, we uphold this policy to decrease distractions from the learning. We want to create environments in which our students are truly engaged, asking questions, and achieving excellence. We are striving to ensure all students are meeting and exceeding grade level standards so that they are prepared to succeed in the career and/or college pathway of their choice. With that said, we also understand that students and families want to have access to each other in the event of an emergency; therefore, if a teacher does collect cell phones, the phones will be kept in the classroom with you or your child.

Please let me know if you have questions! As always, we welcome your feedback to continuously improve Kennedy.

With Gratitude,  
Tiffany Almon  
Principal

## THIS WEEK'S UPDATES:

- ★ If you would like to be a part of creating a VISION for the future of Kennedy, I NEED YOUR VOICES! Please email Tiffany Almon, Principal, at [tiffany\\_almon@dpsk12.org](mailto:tiffany_almon@dpsk12.org). We are holding our first Advisory Board meeting in which we will begin to create this vision on 1/31 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm, and I need more students and parents to join the board.
- ★ Exciting Event Alert! On **January 16th** City Year will be hosting an Open Mic Night where students can express themselves using songs, poetry, essays, and any other form of literature. Please join us in celebrating these students who want their voices to be heard. The event will take place at 5:30 in the JFK cafeteria. Light refreshments will be provided.
- ★ ACCESS testing begins this week. English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade will participate in the ACCESS 2.0 for ELLs assessment. This assessment measures a student's English language skills in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. ACCESS 2.0 is a state assessment and is used by classroom teachers to determine the level of language support that a student may need during instruction. With this information, we are also able to monitor student progress on an annual basis, and determine when a student is ready to be placed in mainstream instruction. To learn more about this assessment please visit the following web page:

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- ★ <https://wida.wisc.edu/assess/access/tests>.
  - ★ John F. Kennedy High School will be administering the assessment between January 13, 2020 and February 13, 2020. Please be sure that your student arrives on time during these days so they do not miss sections of the test, as this would require a make-up session.
- ★ Attendance percentages will carry over from last semester but your GPA will reset for semester 2. To earn redemption points for attendance, participate in office hours, City Year after school tutoring, and/or Saturday School. You can also spend your off period working with a City Year Corp Member for attendance points. You must have the equivalent of a 93% attendance to attend prom, end of year celebrations, dances, and to walk at graduation.
- ★ The entrance off of the teachers' lot will be locked for student safety. Please utilize the drop off driveway in front of the MAIN ENTRANCE to drop off your students. These doors have a buzzer so that students can get in quickly. All entrances are open from 6:45 am until 7:30 am.
- ★ All students must have their student ID while at school, if you do not have an ID, you will be asked to
- ★ Students will not be given a pass to go to the coffee shop unless they have a 93% attendance and a 2.5 GPA.

### Important Dates

1/15/20 -- Board member Tay Anderson visits Kennedy from 1:30 - 2:30 if you read all the way down to the important dates and email Tiffany FIRST, you will get a cool prize:)

1/16/20 -- Open Mic night from 5:30 - 7

Get Involved! Attend our students' games and events!

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

### ARCHIVED UPDATES and REMINDERS:

- ★ The School Store is open every day after school near the entrance to the cafeteria.
- ★ Students can now earn 1.0% toward their attendance percentage for attending office hours with their teachers.
- ★ 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](mailto: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.

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★ Mondays are **COLLEGE SPIRIT DAYS** wear your college gear! Fridays are **Commander Days!** Wear your Kennedy 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 to send them down. For security reasons, we prefer that you come in rather than calling our main line.

★ Students are required to wear **lanyards** 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](mailto:tiffany_almon@dpsk12.org). The Commander Connection meets the first Wednesday of every month from 7 - 8PM in the JFK Cafeteria.

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

**P** professionalism

**R** respect

**I** inclusion

**D** dedication

**E** excellence

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