

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Students and Families,

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The function of **education** is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true **education**." I find immense inspiration and drive from these words, as they motivate me, as your Principal, to find ways to continuously improve our learning spaces and create an environment in which all of you are challenged to find solutions to difficult problems and persevere in the face of struggle.

Let's work together this week to ask questions and find inspiration in learning. 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.

With Gratitude,  
Tiffany Almon  
Principal

## THIS WEEK'S UPDATES:

- ★ ACCUPLACER TESTING for the class of 2021 will occur at 7:40 am and 11:55 am on Tuesday 1/21 (TOMORROW) and Wednesday 1/22. Make ups will occur on Thursday 1/23. This is one way that students can meet the graduation requirements by showing competency in Math and English. **Please check out this [site](#) for the new graduation requirements that begin next school year.**
- ★ The Collaborative School Committee meets tomorrow in the JFK room from 4:30 to 6PM. This is an open meeting. We will discuss the budget for the 20-21 school year.
- ★ ACCESS testing continues 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:  
<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 purchase another one from the main office. This rule is to ensure JFK students are the only students in our school and to maintain a safe environment for all.
- ★ Students will not be given a pass to go to the coffee shop unless they have a 93% attendance and a 2.5 GPA.

## UPDATES from the Denver Scholarship Fund (DSF/Future Center):

- ★ Kennedy is home to 1 Dell Semi-Finalist scholar, 1 Boettcher, and Coca-Cola Semi-finalist.
- ★ January 29<sup>th</sup> is our second FAFSA workshop! We will be targeting students who have applied to college but not financial aid yet.
- ★ DSF has partnered with Ball Aerospace Corporation and has agreed to come to JFK on February 5<sup>th</sup> to participate in a Speed Mentoring event with 25-30 students who are interested in engineering/aerospace.
- ★ February 6<sup>th</sup>, we are taking a group of students to Emily Griffith Technical College
- ★ March 19<sup>th</sup>, the future center will be taking 10 students to tour Denver 7 News station. Students who are currently involved in yearbook, digital media, or even production are we who are inviting to experience this awesome opportunity.
- ★ March 25<sup>th</sup>, all of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class will opt-out field trip to the Auraria Campus, to gain exposure of a college campus.
- ★ Lastly, as you know, DSF's priority isn't only coaching students on the best academic and emotional fit for choosing their post-secondary plans, but also financially. DSF gives scholarships to students-stay tuned for that this semester!!

### Important Dates

1/24 - FAFSA FRIDAYS

1/29 - Student Celebrations

1/29 - FAFSA WORKSHOP DAY! Anyone who has applied to college but has not yet completed a FAFSA APPLICATION can work with our DSF

1/29 - Commander Connection (PTSA) meets from 7 - 8PM

Get Involved! Attend our students' games and events!

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

## 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.
- ★ 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.
- ★ 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

**We are Stronger Together! ¡Somos más fuertes Unidos! ĐOÀN KẾT LÀ SỨC MẠNH**

