



# TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR FUTURE!



John F. Kennedy High School is a comprehensive high school located in the Bear Valley neighborhood, serving students in grades 9-12. With a highly-qualified staff, engaging and diverse course options, and a stellar counseling department, Kennedy is a top choice for students across the district.

Kennedy provides a variety of options for our students, as high school is all about learning and exploring who we are and who we want to be as we grow. Academic options, including International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, or Career Connect pathways are at the heart of our program, but students can also choose to pursue a combination of coursework with a focus on future careers or fields of study. We also recognize the need for a well-rounded education, which is why a broad range of electives and extracurricular activities are offered. Film, graphic design, drama, choir, engineering, art, business, photography, or instrumental music are just some of the many fun and interesting course options we offer.

**"We're a comprehensive high school. We offer a lot. As as the high school experience, we do it better than anyone else on the west side."**

— KENNEDY STAFF MEMBER

Additionally, the Kennedy School Counseling Program has been recognized as a Model Program by the American School Counseling Association since 2009. We have been proven to and recognized for providing a model comprehensive school counseling program where we are able to thoroughly and appropriately meet the needs of our students academically, with college and career readiness, and by addressing social emotional needs.

## KENNEDY AT A GLANCE

### SCHOOL COLORS

Navy blue and Kelly green

### MASCOT

The Commanders

### TOTAL ENROLLMENT

About 950 students

### 54+ YEARS

of rich history in the neighborhood

### 70+

clubs and activities

### 23

sports programs

### ONE YEAR

of free college available

### \$5 MILLION

in college scholarships earned annually



# TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR INTERESTS!



**We are proud to offer many unique course offerings that you won't find at other schools across Denver.**

#### **FILM PRODUCTION**

The High School Film Department is designed much like a college-level film program. You'll start with film production, then take a two year intensive course in film study and film creation. The program ends with four capstone projects and test where you pull together the knowledge and skills you've learned throughout the program to complete a fun, but challenging, project.

#### **GARDENING**

Kennedy has two gardens and greenhouse on campus, and students are able to take a gardening class where they learn how to grow vegetables for food. The food grown in these gardens produces [xx] vegetables each season!

#### **JROTC**

The mission of the JROTC program is to motivate young people to be better citizens. Students receive instruction in leadership theory and application, wellness, fitness and first aid, geography, earth science, citizenship, American history, firearm safety and rifle marksmanship. JROTC provides students with opportunities to be members of competitive drill and rifle teams, and to achieve success in various levels of leadership positions within the program. Kennedy's JROTC unit is an Honor Unit with Distinction, limited to the top 10% of schools in the nation. Kennedy's program is currently the largest in the state, and three of its drill teams are ranked regionally and nationally.

#### **PERFORMING ARTS**

Kennedy's performing arts department is proud to offer drama, stagecraft, choir, band, orchestra, guitar and choreography. Each course is constructed to teach

music, theatrical and music skills, and individual discipline, along with artistic and aesthetic knowledge in line with the current content standards. Kennedy has a recently updated state-of-the-art auditorium. We produce on average seven plays annually!

#### **VISUAL ARTS, DIGITAL ARTS AND DESIGN**

Kennedy's visual arts department offers a rigorous, professionally-led standards-based curriculum. Classes provide meaningful and significant experiences that foster critical thinking, inspire creative self-expression, and develop a lifelong appreciation of the arts. Students have the opportunity to explore a variety of artistic mediums including ceramics, drawing, painting, and sculpture. We also offer Digital Arts and Design courses teach students software and design basics that get them prepared to enter the field of communications and graphic design. Students will develop technical skills working with professional software (Adobe Creative Cloud), which is the industry standard.



# TAKE COMMAND IN THE CLASSROOM!

**At Kennedy, we offer several advanced academic options for our students.**

## **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

We are an International Baccalaureate World School offering the Diploma Programme in grades 11-12. The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The Diploma Program (DP) curriculum is made up of six subject groups and the DP Core, which consists of Theory of Knowledge; Creativity, Activity, Service; and the Extended Essay. Through the DP Core, students reflect on the nature of knowledge, complete independent research, and undertake a project that often involves community service. Students are able to enroll in the full DP program or to register for individual courses based on interest. Based on the completion of their coursework and the results of their IB subject exams, full-time DP students are able to potentially earn the IB Diploma and all DP students (full-time or course only) have the potential to earn college credit.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

The Advanced Placement program is a national academic program sponsored by the College Board. The classes are the equivalent of introductory college courses and provide opportunities for students to complete certain college requirements while still in high school. An Advanced Placement class is taught at the high school and follows a college-level curriculum which has been approved by the College Board. Each of the courses is year-long and culminates in a required national exam in May. These classes move at an accelerated pace and cover an extensive amount of material.

## **HONORS**

The Kennedy Honors program offers a challenging academic experience that goes above and beyond participation in Honors classes. Our teachers work to not only challenge students intellectually, but to foster critical thinking skills, provide programs that offer college-level coursework and preparing students to take IB and AP assessments. An application is required for the program.



**"I love the opportunities. The counselors here are great. At other schools you're competing with other students for a spot. At this school they find you! They find a spot for you."**

**KENNEDY STUDENT**





# TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR FUTURE!

## Our College and Career programming options makes preparing for your future after high school easy.

### **CAREERCONNECT**

Kennedy is proud to offer six CareerConnect pathways for students. This program provides students with real-world exposure through business excursions, internships and mentorships.

**School of Business The High School of Business™** is designed much like a college-level business administration program. You'll start with Business Foundations, then take courses in business principles, economics, marketing, management and finance.

**Project Lead the Way Engineering™** From launching space explorations to delivering safe, clean water to communities, engineers find solutions to pressing problems and turn their ideas into reality. PLTW Engineering empowers students to step into the role of an engineer, adopt a problem-solving mindset, and make the leap from dreamers to doers. The program's courses engage students in compelling, real-world challenges that help them become better collaborators and thinkers. Students take from the courses in-demand knowledge and skills they will use in high school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take.

**John F. Kennedy CTE MedConnect program** Our program is designed to prepare students for a career in the rapidly expanding health care field. You will start with Biology your freshman year, take Health Science I and Anatomy/ Physiology, and then have the option of staying at Kennedy for Sports Medicine I or take advantage of other opportunities that exist at Kennedy or CEC Early College, such as the Apprenticeship program or Certified Nursing Assistant program. Kennedy is currently working with Red Rocks Community College to offer concurrent enrollment opportunities, thus giving the student a chance to earn college credit in their chosen field while in high school.

**School of Careers for Special Education Students** The Workforce Education Services Program is designed for

students who are currently on an Individualized Education Program to build up their job readiness skills in a school to work program. The classes provide students with on-campus job opportunities, as well as work experience and apprentices outside of school.

Some of the jobs on campus include the Commander Cafe, Kennedy Custom Design/Sign Shop, Garden Commander, Recycling Program, Campus Beautification and Book Binding. Students in this program are allowed the opportunity to work off-campus to earn credits towards graduation. Students are also given the skills they need for resume/cover letter writing, interviewing strategies, capstone for graduations and job portfolios.

**School of Technology and Graphic Design Digital Arts and Design** courses teach students software and design basics that get them prepared to enter the field of communications and graphic design. Students will develop technical skills working with professional software (Adobe Creative Cloud), which is the industry standard. Student portfolios will be started in Graphic Design I and continue through the fourth level of design/production courses. After each year, students will evaluate and update pieces with instructors guidance. Students that move through all four levels of coursework will have a more comprehensive portfolio that meets all district requirements, plus be able to show them for entrance in to university or full-time work interviews.

**School of Theatre and Film Students** in the film department students can learn the basics of filmmaking in a variety of genres, including horror, Animation, Claymation, PSAs and comedies. You can also learn how to breakdown and understand the process behind making and viewing films. After completing this introductory course, students can choose to join a Diploma program which offers a two-year intensive study of film. You will be making films for multiple festival and events and potentially earn college credit, as well as creation of a film portfolio.



TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR FUTURE!



**At Kennedy we're proud to be able to create a plan with each student so that they can meet their unique needs and wants.**

#### CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

We are excited to offer concurrent enrollment courses right here on the Kennedy campus! Students gain exposure to the college experience without having to leave the halls of Kennedy, and they can earn both high school and college credit at the same time. Even better, Denver Public Schools pays for the tuition, as long as the course is passed. Students can also take classes at Community College of Denver, Arapahoe Community College, Red Rocks Community College, or Emily Griffith Technical College. You can earn up to a year of free college through concurrent enrollment!

#### FUTURE CENTER

Our Future Center helps students get into, pay for and succeed in college. We offer college and financial aid advice, helping guide students through every step of the application and financial aid process. Last year we awarded over \$5 million in scholarships to students!

#### COUNSELING CENTER

Students in all grades are paired with a counselor to help with academic advising, college and career planning, and personal and social development. Our counselors are all highly qualified, with appropriate state credentials and at least a Master's degree in School Counseling or a related field. The Kennedy School Counseling Program has been recognized as a Model Program by the American School Counseling Association since 2009.

**"We've had a huge expansion on concurrent enrollment. Kids can graduate with a year of college for free! Our college readiness classes have a low teacher to student ratio."**

**KENNEDY STAFF MEMBER**





## TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR GROWTH AND WELLNESS!

At Kennedy we're proud to offer many services to students to help support social, emotional and physical health, and personal development and growth.



### DENVER HEALTH SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER

Kennedy has a Denver Health School-Based Health Center that DPS students can access for free health care. Any student who has submitted a signed parental consent form is welcome to use the services at these centers during school hours. Services available to students include physical examinations and sports physicals, care of injury or illness, immunizations, lab tests, prescriptions and medications, mental health counseling, sexual and reproductive health care, and health insurance enrollment.

### MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OF DENVER

The JFK Mental Health Team includes a team of social workers, a school psychologist, a school nurse and school counselors available to support students with their social-emotional needs. Some of the services provided by the team include:

- Crisis intervention (harm to self, harm to others self-injury).
- Student support groups.
- Short-Term individual social/emotional counseling.
- Resources on a variety of topics, including stress, anxiety, depression, healthy relationships, bullying, suicide, among others.
- Referrals to Mental Health Counseling, including in-house referrals to our full-time
- Kennedy MHCD staff member.
- Referrals to School Nurse and Denver Health School-Based Health Clinic, including sexual health counselor and substance abuse.
- Special Education mental health evaluations and services.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

JFK offers a variety of support services for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), including Mi/MIS (Multi-intensive/Multi-intensive

severe) and AN (Affective Needs) center programs that provide students with academic and life skills support. We also offer a continuum of services for students with learning disabilities ranging from small group classes for English and Math to co-teaching and facilitation support in the general education classroom. Additionally, each student has a case manager for their IEP to support their success in all of their classes and their transition to the post-secondary environment that fits their goals and needs. Students in this program have the options for a capstone project under the new graduation requirements and also a Workforce Education Service program that will earn them credit towards work experience.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS

Kennedy is committed to education access for English language learners. Our focus is to ensure access to effective curriculum and resources as students develop English proficiency, new graduation requirements and also a Workforce Education Service program that will earn them credit towards work experience.



## TAKE COMMAND OF THE COMPETITION!

We offer 23 sports programs with competitive, highly-ranked teams. We have over 50 years of rich history of being a competitive place to practice athletics.

Baseball | Boys

Basketball | Boys

Basketball | Girls

Cross Country | Boys

Cross Country | Girls

Fitness Center

Football | Boys

Futures Football

Golf | Boys

Golf | Girls

Lacrosse | Boys

Soccer | Boys

Soccer | Girls

Softball | Girls

Spirit | Co-ed

Swimming | Boys

Swimming | Girls

Tennis | Boys

Tennis | Girls

Track and Field | Boys

Track and Field | Girls

Volleyball | Girls

Wrestling | Boys



**"WE LOVE  
CELEBRATING  
COMMANDER  
PRIDE. THERE'S A  
LOT OF LOYALTY."**

KENNEDY STAFF MEMBER

## TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT!

At Kennedy we offer over 70 clubs for students.

Some club offerings include:

3D Printing Club

Anime Club

Art Club

Board Games and Chess Club

Commander Crew

DECA

Diversity Club

Fellowship of the Christian Commanders

Future Business Leaders of America

GSA/Rainbow Alliance

Improv Club

Key Club

Math, Engineering and Science Achievement

National Honor Society

Padres & Jovones Unidos

Readers of the Lost Ark

Shakespeare Club

Society of Young Women Engineers

Tri-M Honor Society

*There are many more clubs and our club offerings change each year. If you don't see a club that you would like to join, students are encouraged to start their own club!*





## TAKE COMMAND OF *YOUR COMMUNITY!*



**We are proud of the culture and community that we have built over the past 50+ years in our neighborhood. We believe that Kenny's reach in the Denver community is broad and impactful, and we encourage you to become a part of our community.**

### **KENNEDY MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT**

JFK is a safe environment where staff, families, and the community are committed to supporting all scholars in achieving academic and personal excellence. Scholars are empowered to meet future challenges, develop a positive character, and be active and informed citizens in our global community.

### **COMMANDER CONNECTION**

Commander Connection is JFK's Parent-Teacher Organization. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month during the school year, and works to support and serve the school in countless valuable ways. Commander Connection provides all academic and athletic letters, bars and pins for letter jackets. They also sponsor the drug-and-alcohol-free After Prom Party and numerous staff appreciation activities. In addition, they give away over \$3000 a year in scholarships to seniors.

### **ELA-PAC**

ELA-PAC is the organization in charge of communication between parents and the school regarding English Language Acquisition (ELA) programming. The responsibilities of ELA-PACs are to:

- Provide families information about ELA programming.
- Increase communication between families and schools.
- Review the implementation of ELA programming.
- Listen and respond to family concerns.