

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 9

John F. Kennedy Middle School

155 Raffia Rd. Enfield, CT 06082

Respect, Diligence, Dignity

Principal's Newsletter



Dear JFK School Community,

We hope our newsletter finds you and your family doing well...

JFK's 2019-20 school started off on a positive note. We met with our student body to cover our JFK [guidelines](#). Our intention is to clearly outline what is expected of our school community. If you have not already done so, please review these our guidelines and our student [handbook](#).

Our new traffic pattern appears to be a more effective than previous years. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we worked through this change. Please note: the north entrance (closer to Prior & Raffia) is an exit-only.

The JFK student body has exhibited positive conduct since the start of the school year. The breakfast routine, device expectation and overall climate of our school appears renewed. In addition, we have not experienced violent behavior (fighting) as students are aware that privileges will be revoked. As a school community, we will not tolerate violence within *our* school.

We want to express our appreciation for our students treating our school with *respect* and *dignity*. We will distribute an ice cream bar to every student at JFK during lunch this week. Thank you, parents and guardians for supporting our renewed expectations/guidelines: your support is vital in sustaining a positive school culture.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 10/3
 - Term 1 Progress Reports Distributed
- Monday 10/14
 - Columbus Day Holiday (No School)
- Tuesday 10/15
 - Professional Learning Day (No School)
- Monday 11/4
 - Picture retakes
 - [Website](#)
 - Code: RI209200Q1

Important Links:

School:

- [JFK Calendar](#)
- [After-school program catalog](#)

Athletic Calendar:

- [CIAC Page](#)
- School selection:
 - "Kennedy MS – Enfield"

JFK PTO

- [Cookie Order Form](#)
 - Deadline to order 10/11
 - Pick-up date 11/18

Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences

- Appointment process: [HERE](#)
 - 11/18 & 11/20

Our educators have selected a small group of students who have been identified as exemplar in exhibiting *Respect, Diligence, and Dignity* within our school community. Moving forward, we will recognize our Patriot Leaders on a monthly basis. These exceptional students will receive a special breakfast to recognize their outstanding character and for their commitment to our core values. We hope that you join us in congratulating our student leaders!

September			
Team/Group	Student	Team/Group	Student
Admin.	Tim Mele	North	Phayvahn Gray-Khen
Alcorn	Elize Pagan	Physical Education/Health	Evan Murphy
Art	Aurora Hunt	Reading/ESOL	Jayden Gregory
Brainard	Zachary Bonini	Scitico	Kelsey Wyse
Fermi	Ian Readout	STEAM/Tech. Ed	Canaan Preste
Guidance	Anthony Murphy	South	Kyle Dube
Hale	Zane Boudreau	Twain	Jacob Barnes
Higgins	Kaitlyn Christmas	Wallop	Shannon Collins
Kosciuszko	Samantha Green	Weymouth/Bell	Javian Rosario
Music/Band	Harper Minalga	World Language	Aiden Tetreault

Across the nation, public schools must maintain proper accreditation. Our accrediting organization, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), engaged in a site visit at JFK a few years ago. The visit was conducted by professionals in the field. The insight and data provided by the visiting team permitted JFK faculty to develop academic and behavioral expectations for our school. These expectations are measured against appropriate rubrics – the evidence or observations assessed by the rubrics produce invaluable data. This information is utilized to understand our strengths and challenges as an organization. You will see this process come full circle as it is applied to the comment section within the term three progress report.

Academic Expectations:

1. Students will...
 - a. Actively participate in class discussions.
 - b. Work collaboratively to solve problems.
2. Students will...
 - a. Apply literacy skills to demonstrate knowledge across disciplines.
 - b. Apply numeracy skills to demonstrate knowledge across disciplines.
3. Students will use...
 - a. Verbal/written modes of expression effectively to share information.
 - b. Visual/artistic modes of expression effectively to share information.
4. Students will demonstrate appropriate use of technology to communicate, collaborate, create and think critically.

Behavioral/Social Expectation:

1. Students will demonstrate positive citizenship in the school community; respect, responsibility, readiness, and positive relationships.

Respectfully,
Andrew Berrios, Ed.D.
Principal

Curriculum and Instruction

Department Updates and News

Physical Education and Health

One of our goals as a department is to move towards more skills-based learning and assessing in both Physical Education and Health. A skills-based approach allows students to learn in sequential and relevant ways through participatory methods to assist them with the development of skills, attitudes, and functional knowledge needed to make health-enhancing decisions. Our first skills-based project includes all grade 6-8 students currently enrolled in Physical Education. The project reflects many of our national standards and grade-level performance indicators. The national standards and benchmarks can be viewed here: <https://www.shapeamerica.org/standards/pe/upload/Grade-Level-Outcomes-for-K-12-Physical-Education.pdf>

The students are being asked to develop and implement a personalized fitness plan based on their analysis of their Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment results. Students will be asked to:

- identify one short and long-term fitness goal
- identify fitness activities that will assist them with attaining their goals
- utilize the FITT principle to determine time and intensity
- create an effective and manageable fitness calendar

In addition, students will be asked to reflect on their responses to a brief personal wellness questionnaire to help them identify their attitudes, habits, and influences surrounding physical activity. It is our hope that student effort, engagement, and personalization will assist them with setting relevant and attainable goals for themselves as well as recognizing and overcoming barriers and/or influences that may stand in their way.

Science

As our students investigate each unit phenomenon, they will revise their initial models and reflect on their learning. They will then apply these skills and information to upcoming Performance Tasks.

- Grade 6 Phenomenon:
 - Concussions
 - Grade 6 Performance Task:
 - Creating Helmets that Prevent Concussions
- Grade 7 Phenomenon:
 - Chemical Reactions
 - Grade 7 Performance Task:
 - Using Chemical Reactions to Create a Snake Egg Incubator
- Grade 8 Phenomenon:
 - Why Things Move? Forces and Motion
 - Grade 8 Performance Task:
 - Engineering Car Bumpers to Reduce Fatalities



Music

The JFK Music Department has been busy working on the professional learning categories of:

- Expanding Instructional Strategies
- Revising the Music Department's Mission Statement, Core Values, and Vision Statement
- Improving Musical Literacy with Common Assessment Tools and Goals
- Revising and Updating the Department's Curriculum

Upcoming JFK Music Department Events:

- Sunday, November 10, 2019 Veterans Day Parade, 1:00pm step-off, Longview Grounds
- Saturday, December 7, 2019 CMEA Eastern Region Middle School Auditions, Colchester, CT
- Tuesday, December 10, 2019 Gr. 7 Band and Orchestra Concert, 7:00pm, JFK auditorium
- Wednesday, December 18, 2019 Gr. 8 Band and Orchestra Concert, 7:00pm, JFK auditorium
- Wednesday, January 15, 2020 JFK Chorus Concert (gr. 6-8), 7:00pm, JFK auditorium
- Thursday, January 16, 2020 Gr. 6 Band and Orchestra Concert, 7:00pm, JFK auditorium

Instructions for Appointment Booking for Parent/Teacher Conference Nights
Monday, November 18th (6:00 - 8:30 PM)
Wednesday, November 20th (4:00 - 6:30 PM)

The following information is necessary for you to book your conference appointments online: Online registration begins Monday, October 28th, 2019. Even if you have registered before you will have to RE-Register:

- Your home phone number
- Your email address
- Your child's teachers names (the ones you wish to conference with)

Our schedule is available at <http://jfenfield.schoolappointments.com>

1. At the home page, click "register" to register as a new user. Once you have a user ID and password, you can just log in from this page.

2. On the next page, please input the following:

- Your first and last name, your home phone (and cell phone, if you would like)
- Your email address
- A unique user ID and a password (type it twice)

Register Now

→ Select your language Then click


Add a Student


→ 3. On the next page, you are going to add your child. Click

Insert

→ 4. Input your child's first and last name. Click

5. You'll be brought to the **Manage Students** page. Next to your child's name, you'll see these three pictures:

 - This will let you edit your child's name (edit current entry)

 - This will let you delete your child (delete current entry)



- This will let you book appointments. Click on this to begin booking times.

6. You'll be brought to the **Appointment Scheduling** page.

- The first box lists all of the teachers at JFK. Select your child's teachers by holding the control button and clicking on each teacher that you would like an appointment with.
- The bottom box lists the days and times. You can choose to see both days and times, or to pick the first night (November 18 from 6:00 - 8:30 PM) or the second night (November 20 from 4:00 - 6:30 PM). Please click View Calendars.
- This scheduling page lists the available times for your teachers. Check a box under each to book a time with each teacher. If a time is already reserved, it will be unavailable to you. After checking your times, please click Book Appointments.

7. You'll be brought to the **Current Scheduled Appointments** page.

- You'll see all of the appointments that you currently have booked.
- You can print a very nice and neat PDF of your schedule by clicking on Print Appointments.

- If you click “Book Appointments” you'll be brought back to the Manage Students screen. Here you can add another child to your list or you can click logout at the top right to exit.

8. If you need to change or cancel these appointments simply come back, log in and make the needed changes. You can schedule appointments from October 28 up to November 15. The system will email you reminders closer to Parent/Teacher Conference nights. If you have any questions you can email shoran@enfieldschools.org.

If you do not have access to a computer and need someone to book these appointments for you, please call JFK at 860-763-8855 and connect to the Red, White or Blue House Office (whichever one is your child's house). This will take only a few minutes. You do need the names of your child's teachers to make appointments.