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## 2025-26 Parent Newsletter #1

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year!



Whether you are a returning student or joining the JKO family for the first time, we are excited to have you join us for what promises to be an excellent year. This year, we are eager to concentrate on three areas that will give our students a compelling and interactive learning experience: literacy, project-based learning, and NYC Solves.

Our focus on literacy in every subject will enable students to build their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. We will also be incorporating project-based learning, which pushes students to use what they've learned to solve real-world challenges. This hands-on methodology is at the core of our new NYC Solves program, where students will be addressing citywide challenges through a S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) lens. These components will be at the forefront of our practice, promoting creativity and collaboration.

To best ready our students for the future, we're also increasing our academic portfolio with additional AP courses, College Now courses, and college courses in collaboration with Berkeley College and BMCC. Our AP for All program and robust business partnerships are intended to enable students to succeed in both college and their eventual careers.

All students are to be present at school on Thursday, September 4, at 8:20 a.m. The daily dismissal time will be 2:40 p.m. For complete information on the upcoming school year, see our inaugural parent newsletter on the school website ([JKOhighschool.org](http://JKOhighschool.org)) under the "Parents" tab. We also invite you to read the attached messages from our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Bernabel, and the school counselors.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students, staff, and school community.

Best regards,

Manuel A. Ureña, Principal

# JKO SCHOOL COUNSELOR

## CONNECT



**WELCOME BACK!!** We are excited to welcome your family and your child back to school for the 2025-2026 School Year! We look forward to working closely with your child and family to ensure your child's academic and social emotional growth and success!

- ❖ The First Day of School is Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Students should arrive on the first day by 8:00 A.M.
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> period Class begins at 8:20 A.M. Students need to arrive to school prior to 8:20 AM and on time regularly so they are able to effectively engage in their first period lesson. Lateness adversely impacts a student's academic performance. **The school day ends at 2:40 P.M.**
  - Students will receive individual lockers in the coming weeks.
- ❖ If your child is or will be absent, please contact Ms. Garcia (9-10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students) at ext. 5052 or email at [NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov) ; Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students) at ext. 5091 or via email at [NVega11@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NVega11@schools.nyc.gov) ; or Ms. Bernabel, Parent Coordinator, at ext. 1012 or email at [ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov) . **Please be sure to send an excuse note for your child's absence and/or a doctor's note if your child has a medical appointment.**
  - Please ensure that your child's medical documents or any other important documents are updated and we have updated copies.
- ❖ Please keep track of your child's academic progress, grades, and attendance in their classes through the SyncGrades website. Please be sure that your child's NYC Student Email account is updated. If you would like to schedule meetings with teachers on Tuesdays, please contact your child's School Counselor.

### ❖ **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

September		
September 4	Thursday	First day of school for all students
September 17	Wednesday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary schools and Pre-K Centers
September 23-24	Tuesday-Wednesday	Rosh Hashanah (Schools closed)
September 25	Thursday	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for high schools, K-12, and 6-12 schools
October		
October 2	Thursday	Yom Kippur (Schools closed)
October 13	Monday	Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples' Day (Schools closed)
October 20	Monday	Diwali (Schools closed)
November		
November 4	Tuesday	Election Day (Students do not attend)

- ❖ In order to maintain a positive learning environment, it is **expected that students dress in a professional manner. We expect students to be dressed appropriately** to ensure safety and to keep the focus on teaching and learning. **We would like all parents and guardians to remind students of proper dress protocols on campus.**

**Prohibited forms of dress at school include, but are not limited to:**

- 1) Clothing that contains references to drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, racism, or gang-affiliation.
- 2) Revealing clothing that does not provide coverage of torso, undergarments, and private body parts, including see-through garments of any kind.
- 3) Sunglasses while indoors.

**If you need assistance providing your child clothing, please contact your child's counselor.**

- ❖ **Students are NOT ALLOWED TO USE CELL PHONES DURING SCHOOL HOURS. This includes ipads or smart watches that are connected to their phones.** They must keep their phones locked in their yonder pouch. **In case of an emergency, please call the school to contact your child and students can use a school office phone to contact their parent/guardian.**
- ❖ **12<sup>th</sup> GRADE SENIOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Please work closely with your senior child this school year to discuss their post-secondary options (plans after high school). They will need your support and encouragement when applying to college/university, trade school, military, and/or financial aid/scholarships. Please look out for future communication regarding college trips, workshops, financial aid, and important deadlines.
- ❖ **Please have your child meet for one on one academic/personal progress meetings with their counselor immediately:** Ms. Garcia (9-10<sup>th</sup> Graders) and Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12<sup>th</sup> Graders). This meeting is important to ensure they are on track academically with their progress towards graduation and to check in on their personal well-being.
- ❖ **Please have your child attend tutoring and join extra-curricular activities** to be an active member of the school community. This a great way for students to make new friends, network, and be exposed to various activities/hobbies. We will send information for tutoring and extra-curricular activities in the coming weeks.
- ❖ **Please reach out to Ms. Garcia (9-10<sup>th</sup> Grades) or Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) if you feel that your child needs social/emotional support.** We have an abundance of services for students at the school and can refer your family to outside resources/assistance.

***Please feel free to contact your child's School Counselor directly with any questions, concerns, or if you need assistance:***

**Ms. Niurkary Garcia, 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor (212)391-0041 Ext. 5052 Email:**

**[NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov)**

**Mrs. Nicole Vega-Beltran, 11 & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor 212-391-0041 Ext. 5091 Email:**

**[NVega11@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NVega11@schools.nyc.gov)**

**DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE ASESORAMIENTO:**

**¡¡BIENVENIDO!!** ¡Estamos emocionados de dar la bienvenida a su familia y a su hijo de regreso a la escuela para el año escolar 2024-2025! ¡Esperamos trabajar en estrecha colaboración con su hijo y su familia para garantizar el crecimiento y el éxito académico y socioemocional de su hijo!



- ❖ ¡El primer día de clases es el 5 de septiembre! Los estudiantes deben llegar el primer día a las 8:00 A.M.
- ❖ **1 periodo La clase comienza a las 8:20 A.M.** Los estudiantes **deben llegar a la escuela antes de las 8:20 A.M.** y puntualmente regularmente para que puedan participar de manera efectiva en su lección del primer período. La tardanza afecta negativamente el rendimiento académico de un estudiante. La jornada escolar finaliza a las 14:40 horas.
  - **Los estudiantes recibirán casilleros individuales en las próximas semanas.**
- ❖ **Si su hijo está o estará ausente**, comuníquese con la Sra. García (estudiantes de 9.º a 10.º grado) en la ext. 5052 o correo electrónico a [NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov); Sra. Vega-Beltran (Estudiantes de 11º y 12º grado) en la ext. 5091 o por correo electrónico a [NVega11@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NVega11@schools.nyc.gov); o la Sra. Bernabel, Coordinadora de Padres, en la ext. 1012 o correo electrónico a [ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov). **Asegúrese de enviar una nota de excusa por la ausencia de su hijo y/o una nota del médico si su hijo tiene una cita médica.**
  - **Asegúrese de que los documentos médicos de su hijo o cualquier otro documento importante estén actualizados y que tengamos copias actualizadas.**
- ❖ **Realice un seguimiento del progreso académico, las calificaciones y la asistencia a clases de su hijo a través del sitio web SyncGrades.** Asegúrese de que la cuenta de correo electrónico estudiantil de NYC de su hijo esté actualizada. Si desea programar reuniones con los maestros los martes, comuníquese con el consejero escolar de su hijo.
- ❖ **FECHAS IMPORTANTES PARA RECORDAR:**
  - **Jueves 5 de septiembre a las 8 a.m.**
  - **Jueves 26 de septiembre – Noche de Currículo**
  - **Jueves a viernes, 3 y 4 de octubre: Rosh Hashaná, escuelas cerradas**
  - **Lunes 14 de octubre – Día de la Herencia Italiana/Pueblos Indígenas – Escuelas cerradas**
  - **Lunes 21 de octubre: finaliza el 1.er período de calificaciones académicas**
- ❖ Para mantener un ambiente de aprendizaje positivo, **se espera que los estudiantes se vistan de manera profesional. Esperamos que los estudiantes vistan apropiadamente** para garantizar la seguridad y mantener el enfoque en la enseñanza y el aprendizaje. **Nos gustaría que todos los padres y tutores recuerden a los estudiantes los protocolos de vestimenta adecuados en el campus.**  
**Las formas de vestimenta prohibidas en la escuela incluyen, entre otras:**
  - 1) Ropa que contenga referencias a drogas, alcohol, sexo, violencia, racismo o afiliación a pandillas.

2) Ropa reveladora que no cubra el torso, la ropa interior y las partes privadas del cuerpo, incluidas prendas transparentes de cualquier tipo.

3) Gafas de sol mientras esté en el interior.

**Si necesita ayuda para proporcionarle ropa a su hijo, comuníquese con el consejero de su hijo.**

- ❖ **NO SE PERMITE A LOS ESTUDIANTES UTILIZAR TELÉFONOS CELULARES DURANTE EL HORARIO ESCOLAR.** Esto incluye iPads y relojes inteligentes **que están conectados a sus teléfonos.** Deben mantener sus teléfonos bajo llave en su bolsa. **En caso de una emergencia, llame a la escuela para comunicarse con su hijo y los estudiantes pueden usar el teléfono de la oficina de la escuela para comunicarse con sus padres/tutores.**
- ❖ **12º GRADO PADRES/TUTORES MAYORES:** Trabaje estrechamente con su hijo mayor este año escolar para discutir sus opciones postsecundarias (planes después de la escuela secundaria). Necesitarán su apoyo y aliento cuando soliciten ingreso a la universidad, escuela de oficios, ejército y/o ayuda/becas financieras. Esté atento a comunicaciones futuras sobre viajes universitarios, talleres, ayuda financiera y fechas límite importantes.
- ❖ **Haga que su hijo se reúna inmediatamente para reuniones individuales de progreso académico/personal con su consejero:** Sra. García (estudiantes de 9.º a 10.º grado) y Sra. Vega-Beltrán (estudiantes de 11.º a 12.º grado). Esta reunión es importante para garantizar que estén encaminados académicamente con su progreso hacia la graduación y para controlar su bienestar personal.
- ❖ **Haga que su hijo asista a tutorías y se una a actividades extracurriculares para ser un miembro activo de la comunidad escolar.** Esta es una excelente manera para que los estudiantes hagan nuevos amigos, establezcan contactos y estén expuestos a diversas actividades/pasatiempos. Enviaremos información para tutorías y actividades extracurriculares en las próximas semanas.
- ❖ Comuníquese con la Sra. García (grados 9-10) o la Sra. Vega-Beltrán (grados 11-12) si cree que su hijo necesita apoyo social/emocional. Tenemos una gran cantidad de servicios para los estudiantes en la escuela y podemos derivar a su familia a recursos/asistencia externos.

**No dude en comunicarse directamente con el consejero escolar de su hijo si tiene alguna pregunta, inquietud o si necesita ayuda:**

Sra. Niurkary García, Consejera de 9y10 grado(212)391-0041 Ext.5052 Correo electrónico:

[NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov)

Sra. Nicole Vega-Beltran, Consejera de 11º y 12º grado 212-391-0041 Ext. 5091 Correo

electrónico: [NVega11@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:NVega11@schools.nyc.gov)



# PARENT COORDINATOR CONNECTIONS

From the Desk of the  
Parent Coordinator  
Ms. Bernabel  
[ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov)  
Tel #929-617-0122

## Announcements

- The first day of school for students to report to school is Thursday, September 4th.
- The following is the bell schedule for the 2025-26 school year:

PERIOD	BEGINS	Breakfast is available from 7:30 AM to 8:15 AM	ENDS
1	8:20		9:05
2	9:08		9:53
3	9:56		10:41
4(LUNCH)	10:44		11:29
5 (LUNCH)	11:32		12:17
6 (LUNCH)	12:20		1:05
7 (LUNCH)	1:08		1:53
8	1:55		2:40



- Student lockers will be assigned on the last week of September.
- Student OMNY (Transportation Passes) cards will be distributed on the first day of school. Students can use OMNY passes beginning September 1–August 31, 2025, as long as they remain eligible (grade and distance) throughout the school year.
- Your child will receive his/her schedule upon entering the building on September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Reach out to Ms. Bernabel if you have not registered for your NYC Myschools account. This is very important for parents to receive information regularly from the DOE and to be able to access certain services available online as well as our online grading system. You can register for an account at: <https://www.myschools.nyc/en/account/log-in/>
- Please complete the NYC financial forms, formerly known as Lunch Forms. While lunch is currently given to all students regardless of income, schools still need parents to complete in order to qualify for federal Title I funding. All information submitted by parents is completely confidential. The following is the link for this: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>
- PTA/SLT Meetings: PTA/SLT meetings are held on the first Monday of every month. Stay tuned for the time and day of the September meeting which sometimes takes place later in the month. SLT commences at 4 pm and ends at 5 pm. PTA meetings commence at 6 pm to 7 pm. Additionally, meetings will be held virtually and in person (hybrid). An email with the Zoom links will be sent to parents ten days in advance.
- Computers/Laptops will be distributed to students who need one during the second week of school. These laptops should be carried to school daily since they will be needed for instructional use while in the building.
- The following are documents students will be given on the first day of school which must be completed by parents and handed to Ms. Bernabel:



- Emergency Contact Card
- Military Parent Letter: This form requests information regarding the military active-duty status of parents and guardians. Parents who are not on active duty can disregard this form. Parents who completed this form in prior years must complete it again. For every family who submits a survey response indicating that the student's parent or guardian is on military active duty, you or your designees must use the BINU screen in ATS to enter 'M' in the District C field.
- Housing Questionnaire
- CH-205 Child & Adolescent Health Examination Form
- Parent Ethnicity Survey
- Home Language Identification Survey
- Financial Forms (AKA Lunch Forms)
- We are currently looking to recruit 10 sophomores for **Big Brothers Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring Program**. Students can see Ms. Milan for an application.
- The following is the Student Phone Policy:

### **JKO Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy**

At JKO, we believe a focused learning environment is key to our students' success. This letter serves as a reminder of our policy on cell phones and other electronic devices, which aligns with New York State law and the NYC Public Schools' Chancellor's Regulation A-413.

#### **Policy Details**

**Leave Non-Phone Electronics at Home:** To minimize distractions and ensure a productive learning atmosphere, students should leave all personal electronic devices, other than cell phones, at home. This includes smartwatches, earbuds, earphones, and personal tablet computers. School-issued devices are the only electronics permitted for academic use.

**Collection of Non-Phone Electronics:** If students bring any electronics other than a cell phone, those items will be collected at the school's entrance and returned at the end of the school day.

**Securing Cell Phones:** Students are required to secure their cell phones in the provided pouch upon entering the school building. Each student has a designated pouch for this purpose. The pouch will be unlocked by staff when the student leaves the building at the end of the school day.

**Pouch Responsibility:** Students are responsible for the care of their pouch. A 20.00 replacement fee will be charged for any pouch that is intentionally damaged or destroyed.

**Parental Contact of Student:** If a parent wishes to contact their child during the school day, they should call the school and we will make their child available.

#### **Disciplinary Actions**

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action consistent with the NYC Department of Education's Behavioral Expectations for Students. Actions are progressive and based on the nature and frequency of the violation. These may include:

- A verbal warning.
- Confiscation of the electronic device, to be returned at the end of the school day.
- Confiscation of the electronic device, to be returned only after a mandatory parent conference.
- Seizure of the electronic device, to be returned once the student signs a behavioral contract.
- Suspension for repeated offenses.

We appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain a productive and respectful learning environment for all students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school.

# Class of 2026

## **Class of 2026: Senior Year Info & Costs**

*Make the most of your senior year – but stay on track!*

### **Senior Dues – \$150**


(Payment from September 15-November 15)\*\*Late charges will apply after 11/15\*\*


Covers all of the following:

- ✓ Cap & Gown
- ✓ Senior T-Shirt
- ✓ Diploma Case
- ✓ Senior Brunch/Lunch
- ✓ Senior Awards
- ✓ Program Cords & Stoles
- ✓ Yearbook
- ✓ Graduation Pictures
- ✓ Graduation Swag Bag

### **Prom**


(Payment from November 20- February 10)\*\*Late charges will apply after 2/10\*\*


 Estimated Cost: \$150–\$160

 Subject to change based on final venue selection

### **Senior Trip**


( Payment from February 23- April 20)\*\*Late charges will apply after 4/20\*\*

 Estimated Range: \$200–\$350 (Overnight options available)

 Prices may vary depending on destination and accommodations


### **Senior Activity Trips**

 Cost Range: \$20–\$70

 Based on the specific activity

### **Senior Pictures**





 Sitting Fee: \$20–\$30


 Picture packages are optional and priced separately

### **IMPORTANT PARTICIPATION POLICY**

While you are entitled to these exciting events and opportunities, participation is not guaranteed. Eligibility depends on your senior year standing.

You may be placed on probation or barred from participation if:

-  Failing more than 2 classes
-  Excessive absences or cutting classes
-  Any suspensions during the 2025–2026 school year
-  All decisions regarding participation are subject to administrative review.

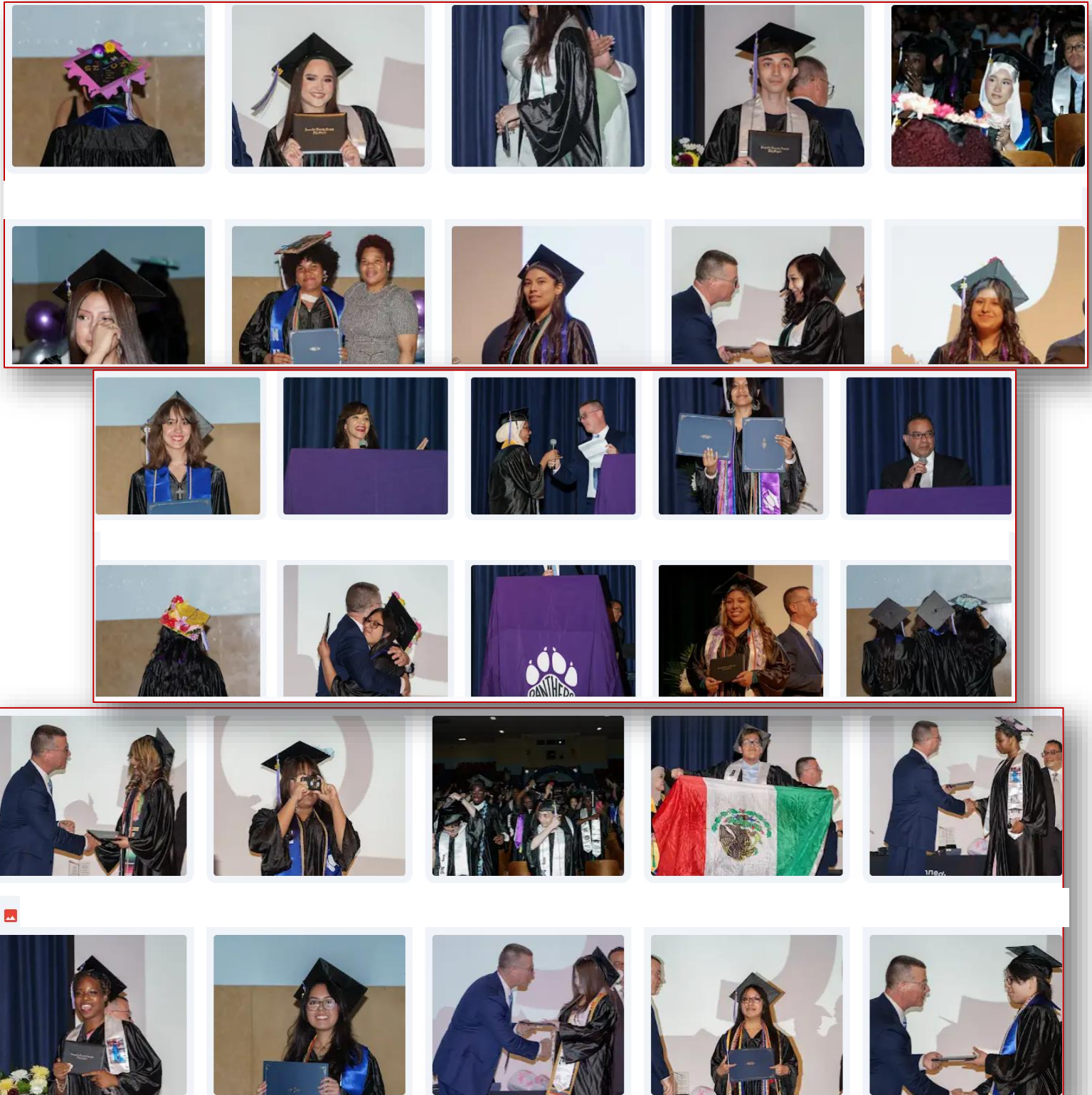
 **Stay focused. Stay eligible. Make it count!**

**Let's make senior year unforgettable – for all the right reasons.**

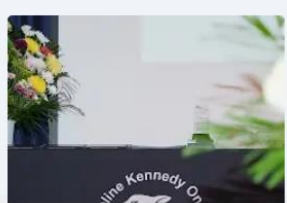
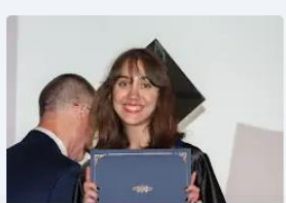




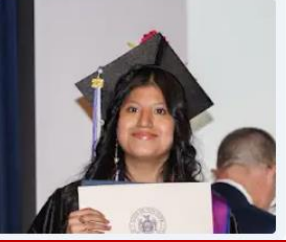
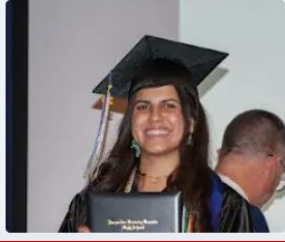
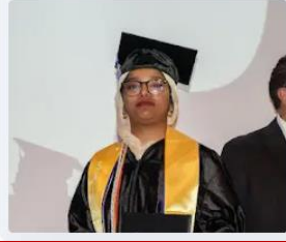
Congratulations to the class of 2025 who graduated last June. We are very proud of you all!!!



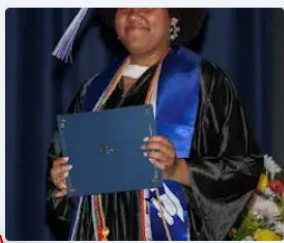
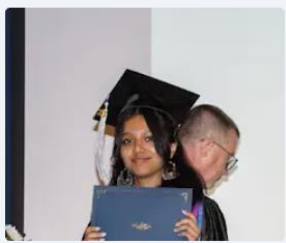














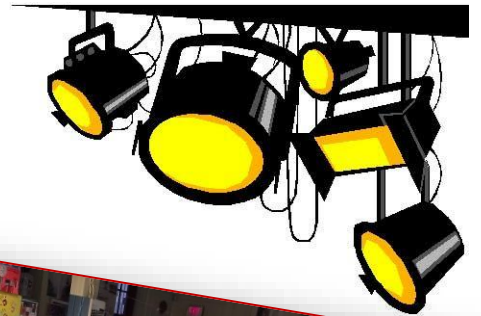
Here they are at prom!!!!







As one group leaves, we welcome another. Welcome to the new students at JKO!!! During the last week of August, we welcomed our new students as they engaged in our New Student Summer Bridge Program. See pictures below as they participated in the Roundabout Theatre artistry workshops focusing on: Effective Collaboration, Risk Taking, Effective Communication, Personal Direction.







A message from Ms. D:

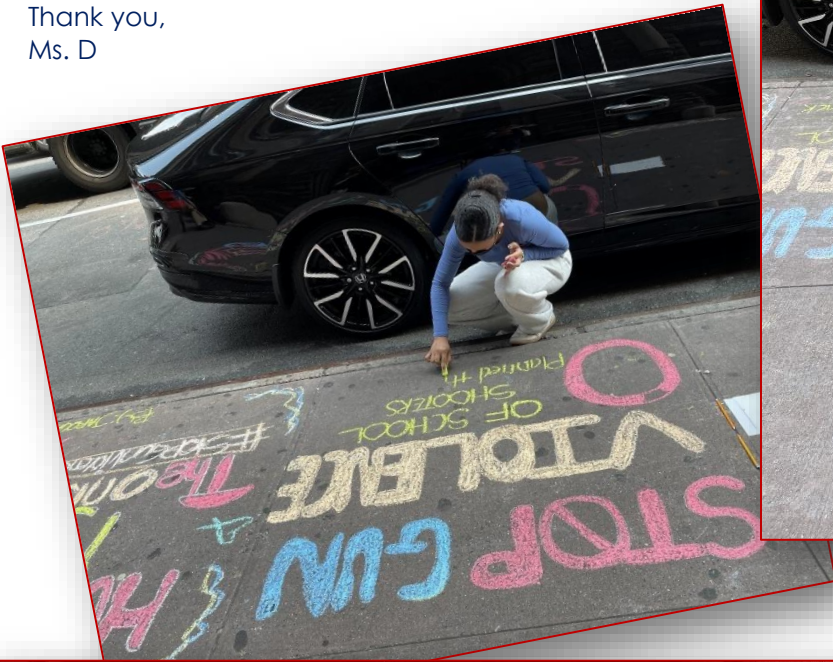
Dear JKO,

Thank you all for participating in National Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 7<sup>th</sup>) by wearing orange or wearing an orange ribbon. Many strangers stopped to praise the students on their mural's outside. One older man from Georgia had tears in his eyes as he spoke with me-he said we're crying every day with all the shootings because of the open carry laws.

We hope our efforts were a reminder.

Thank you, Ms. D, for spearheading this wonderful event!!!

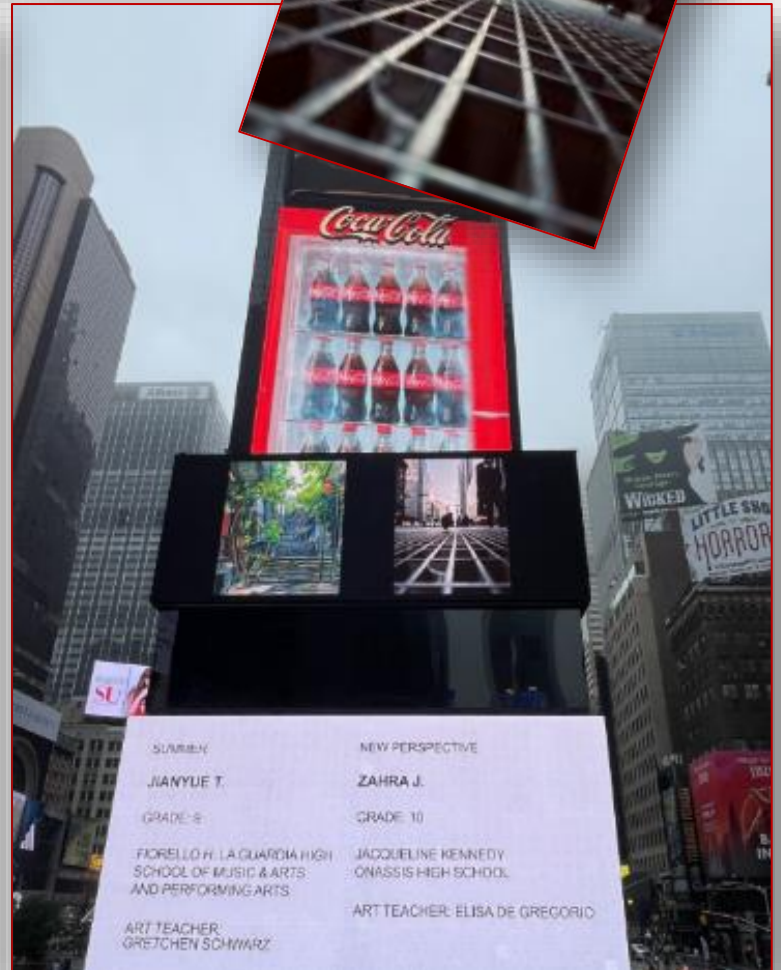
Thank you,  
Ms. D







This past June, our very own, Zahra Jenkin's photograph was featured at the Met and displayed at Times Square on the giant billboards. Congratulations to Zahra for her creative genius and to Ms. D and Andrew for their guidance in expanding Zahra's artistic talents!!! See pictures below of both events...







A message from Ms. Kadison:

On Friday June, 6, JKO held the first ever PBL showcase. We had an amazing turnout with 16 student groups presenting. They represented Mr. Hasan, Ms. Marshall, Mrs. De Gregorio, Mr. Nson, Mr. Faruque, Ms. El Mardi, and my class.

Congratulations to the first-place team, winning a pair of Roundabout Theater Tickets. From Mr. Faruque's class, presenting the "Cost Analysis with Geometry": Umay Y. and Jade F.

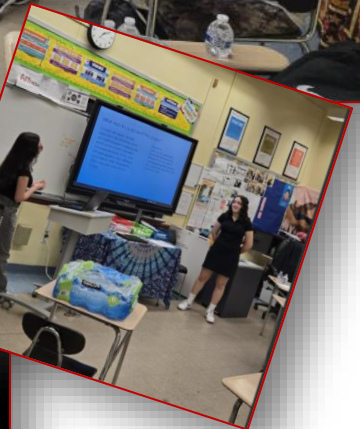
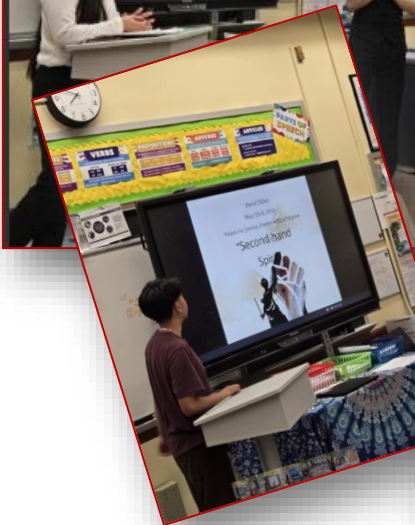
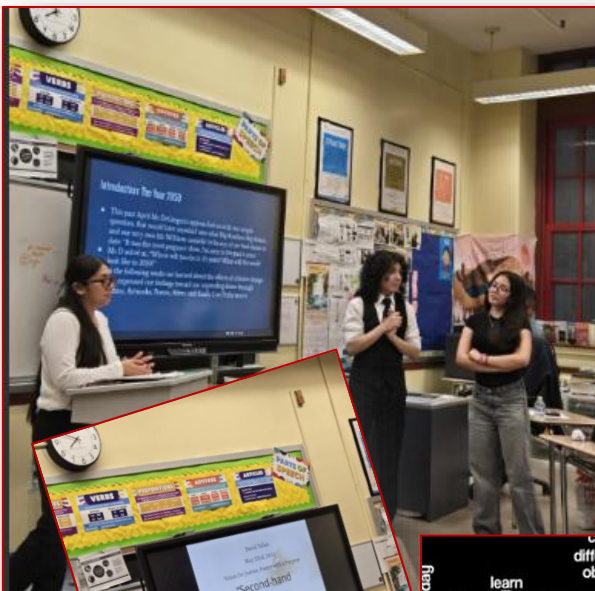
Second place team from Ms. Marshall's class presenting, "Why We Eat What We Eat": Allison V., Pricilla R., and Angel T.

Third place from Mr. Hasan's class, presenting their AP Statistics Analysis: Aracely C. and David T.

A big thank you to the teachers who conducted these PBLs in their classes and encouraged their students to present, as well as all the staff who stayed late to judge. We hope to continue this in the future.

And thank you to Mr. Vincent for co-planning with me, the rest of the admin team for supporting this endeavor and a shoutout to Margon Cuban restaurant for donating food.

A BIG thank you to Ms. Kadison and Mr. Vincent for spearheading this!!!







A message from Ms. Kadison:

I want to share a brief recap of the service activity that some of our seniors participated in on Monday, June 9, in partnership with the Times Square Alliance.

Students began the day with breakfast and an informative presentation about the development of Times Square and the work the Alliance does to keep the area safe, clean, and welcoming. They then participated in a guided walking tour, where they learned about the history and operations of the area.

The group had the opportunity to meet with various team members from the Alliance who work daily to maintain the space and ensure it remains a hub for both locals and visitors. As part of the service component, students helped clean tables and "Big Bellies" (trash/recycling bins), gaining insight into the essential behind-the-scenes work that supports a major public space.

We are grateful to the Times Square Alliance for hosting us and look forward to building a continued partnership for future service learning opportunities.

A huge thank you to Ms. Marshall for taking the lead and planning this with me, Ms. Gordon for assisting with chaperoning, and admin for signing off on the opportunity.

Best regards,

Alana Kadison





# In the Spotlight



## A message from Ms. D:

Dear JKO Bees,

Thank you all for participating in this year's Bee Rave & Pride celebration! The students had a good time & the juniors won the Beelympics competition-go team Vianay!

Special thanks to Ms. Vega, Ms. Gordon, Mr. Van, Mr. Chen, Ms. Bernabel, Mr. Williams, Ms. Acosta, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Okwabi, Ms. Kadison, Ms. Cumberbatch, Mr. Beauchine, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Reaves and our very own Mr. Bee- Mr. Padgett!

It takes a hive!  
Thank you!  
Ms.D

