

WELCOME TO KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021

INCOMING 9TH GRADE ORIENTATION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017

HOME OF THE COUGARS
ONE OF THE BEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE NATION



INVESTED IN EVERY STUDENT

February 2, 2017

Welcome Class of 2021,

I am thrilled to be welcoming you to your freshman year at John F. Kennedy High School. You will be joining students from a variety of different middle schools to join the most cohesive high school community in Cedar Rapids. We are proud of what we have here at Kennedy, and I think you will be too.

You come to us with a variety of experiences, talents and knowledge. Many of you have been in one of the six public middle schools. Some have been members of one of the several small private schools in our community. Others have been in the home school program and some come from outside the district. Some of you have siblings at Kennedy, others are the first in your family to enter high school, and still others the last in the family to enter high school.

Whatever your connection is to others here, you are about to begin a great experience as the Class of 2021 at John F. Kennedy High School. High school is an important chapter in everyone's life; our goal is to help you maximize your potential.

Kennedy is an exceptional school filled with a dedicated faculty and staff. We will do our part to provide you the best education available. We will help you become involved in school activities, encourage excellent attendance, and surround you with support. Kennedy is committed to helping you become the very best version of yourself.

Sincerely,



Jason Kline
Principal
@crkennedyhigh



KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

**Class of 2021
Orientation Meeting
February 2, 2017**

6:00 – 6:30 – Auditorium – Welcome and Important Information

6:30 – 7:00 – Club and Activity Fair, Cafeteria; Walk the Building

7:00 – 8:35 – Group Sessions

Session 1: 7:00 – 7:20

Session 2: 7:25 – 7:45

Session 3: 7:50 – 8:10

Session 4: 8:15 – 8:35



Sessions

Session 1 – 7:00 – 7:20 p.m. _____
 Session 2 – 7:25 – 7:45 p.m. _____
 Session 3 – 7:50 – 8:10 p.m. _____
 Session 4 – 8:15 – 8:35 p.m. _____

Session	Presenter	Room
AP/PACT	Sydney Richey	127
Art	Erin Ennis, Amanda Finley	301, 302
Business Education	Phil Ferrante	117
FACS	Tammy Miller	117
Industrial Technology	Barry Wilson	116
Computer Coding	Leif Segen	220
English Language Learners (ELL)	Dr. Nancy McNee	74A
Music	John Hall, Storm Ziegler	304
Physical Education	Tim Lewis	118
Special Programs:		
Level 1 – Resource	Linda Halsor	<u>64E</u>
Level 2/3-Moderate ID	Mary Gibney	51C
BD	Andy Courtney, Angie Fogle	<u>240C</u>
CLASS	Mark Musker, Jeni Newland	240N
LA Electives	Kara Asmussen, Jesse Meyer, Mike Moran	123
LA 9	Katie Bova, Mackenzie Kaspar, Christina Langton	124
Publications Electives (Newspaper & Yearbook)	Dr. Stacy Haynes-Moore, Leah Howard, Steve Tolly	125
Math	Brenda Havertape, Dennis Hynek, Tim Johnson, Alex Neff	227
Science:		
Biology	Kris Hellweg, Lorymar Vargas	222
Earth Science	Dr. Danielle Jannusch, Larry Shonk	202
Social Studies:		
AP Human Geography	Adrian Evans, Melissa Osborn	163
Personal Law	Adrian Evans	163
Philosophy	George Anderson	106
Psychology & Social Psychology	Dana Melone	107
World Languages:		
Chinese	Upper IMC	
Chinese	Grant Brown	UIMC
French	Jacqueline Hullaby	UIMC
German	Dr. Biljana Samoukovic	UIMC
Japanese	Dan Carolin	UIMC

The College Contract

We believe every student entering Kennedy High School is best served by setting a goal to meet Regents requirements. The Regents requirements are the courses required to attend Iowa, Iowa State or UNI and most other four year colleges and universities.

Consider committing to a Regents program of a 4,4,3,3,2 minimum
(Cedar Rapids graduation requirements in parentheses)

Language Arts 4 Years (4 years required) – 8 credits

Mathematics 4 Years (3 years required) – 8 credits
Including two years of Algebra and a year of Geometry.

Social Studies 3-4 Years (3 years required) – 6-8 credits
Requirements include a year of study in World History, US History, Government and Economics.

Science. 3-4 Years (3 years required) – 6-8 credits
Requires a year of study in Earth Science, Life Science (Biology), as well as a year of Physical Science or a combination of Chemistry and Physics.

World Languages. 3-4 Years (no requirement) – 6-8 credits
Chinese, French, German, Japanese, or Spanish

Physical Education. (4 years or equivalent required) – 4 credits

Electives 10 additional credits

Total. At least 40 credits taking 5 classes (or more)
per semester for 8 terms

Plan for your future . . . today!



The Kennedy faculty wants parents of incoming freshmen to know . . .

1. High school students need continuing support and encouragement from parents regarding academic effort and achievement. Discuss classes and assignments at the dinner table, set aside nightly time for regular homework, support developing student habits, attend parent-teacher conferences, and ponder with students their choices for educational planning.
2. Faithful attendance is a first step toward academic success. If absences are unavoidable, help students follow through on their responsibility for promptly taking care of make-up requirements.
3. Homework matters. Don't let it pile up and get as much done during Intervention Time as you can!
4. Take advantage of tutorials and additional supports the school and your teachers offer. You are not alone in your journey to graduation.
5. Earning B's and A's in high school classes requires considerably more than merely attending and cooperating in class.
6. Extra credit opportunities may be much more limited in high school. Attend to regular assignments with consistent effort, come to class prepared, and stay on top of your work.
7. Failing courses in high school means *repeating* classes to earn credits required toward graduation. Failure is not an option.

The faculty members of Kennedy High School invite parents to be partners in education and encourage their students to come to Kennedy with a positive attitude about learning.

We Are Invested in Every Student



The Core Beliefs of Kennedy High School

1. Academics –

We work to challenge each student with strong academic opportunities, and we encourage students to take full advantage of academic experiences. We are a school with academic balance. We provide realistically high expectations for all of our students whatever their learning style and capabilities.

2. Involvement –

We encourage students to be active, responsibly involved members of our school. We believe our co-curricular activities as well as our school-sponsored clubs and organizations provide enriching experiences that open minds to new possibilities and help create an appreciation of diversity.

3. Citizenship –

We support all our students and encourage them to be contributing members of our community. We believe that it is our responsibility as school citizens to help those in need. We encourage community service and volunteerism. As a school with countless advantages and opportunities, it is our responsibility to assist those less fortunate.

4. Role Models –

We encourage students to form strong, healthy bonds with significant adults and peers during high school. We expect students to make healthy life choices and we work hard to provide our students with positive role models. We provide excellent support for all of our students.

5. Environment –

We expect all members of the Kennedy community to assist in providing a caring school environment that is orderly in nature and engages students in meaningful academic work.

We Are Invested in Every Student



Academics –

- ❖ Named the best public high school in Iowa by US News & World Report in 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- ❖ Ranked #1 in Iowa by Newsweek Magazine's Best High Schools in 2016.
- ❖ Ranked among the best 650 public high schools in the U.S. by The Washington Post and #3 in Iowa as one of the most challenging high schools based on the AP Index (ratio of AP exams taken to the number of grads in the class) in 2016.
- ❖ Continues to rank in the top 3 of Iowa's Best High Schools by Belin Blank Center – University of Iowa in 2016.
- ❖ Students at Kennedy have earned the highest average in the district on Iowa Assessment exams for eleven consecutive years.
- ❖ Earned the highest scores in the district on ACT exams for eight of the last nine years.

Advanced Placement –

- ❖ Leads the district with AP opportunities, providing 34 AP programs, with several available to freshmen.
- ❖ More AP exams taken by Kennedy students than any high school in Iowa for eleven consecutive years.
- ❖ Kennedy students have earned the highest average scores in the district for eleven consecutive years.
- ❖ Kennedy is the first school in Iowa to offer AP Capstone for the 2015-16 school year.
- ❖ Our goal is for all students to take at least one AP course and exam while in high school.

Athletics –

- ❖ Cougars consistently compete for All-Sports honors in the Mississippi Valley Conference.
- ❖ Winner of the 2014 Iowa High School Sports Network Challenge Cup.
- ❖ Twenty-one sports are available and everyone can join. We have a no-cut policy which provides an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Performing Arts –

- ❖ Kennedy's Show Choir, Happiness, Inc. is the oldest show choir west of the Mississippi and has won numerous national and local competitions.
- ❖ Chanteurs, a freshman show choir, is available by audition.
- ❖ The Cougar Marching Band competes across the region. Freshman have the option of auditioning for the marching band season.
- ❖ Full orchestras provide opportunities for everyone.
- ❖ Several elite ensembles are available in vocal, instrumental and strings.

Activities –

- ❖ Home to one of the most celebrated journalism programs in Iowa.
- ❖ Dozens of clubs are available for students to join. Students can also create clubs.
- ❖ Numerous competitive academic teams including Academic Decathlon, Math Team, Speech, and Debate.

Service –

- ❖ Our commitment to local service organizations is profound as our school contributes more than \$10,000 in services and goods to local agencies throughout the year.

Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (employment only), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (students/program only) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. District employees with questions or a grievance related to this policy should contact Rodrick Dooley, Executive Director of Human Resources, rdooley@cr.k12.ia.us 319-558-2000. Students and others should contact Ken Morris, Jr., Manager of Student Equity/Title IX Coordinator, kmorris@cr.k12.ia.us or Paul Hayes, Director of Learning Supports/504 Compliance Officer phayes@cr.k12.ia.us 319-558-2000. The District mailing address is 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405-1015.