

January 20, 2018

Dear Kennedy Families:

The 2018-19 Course Registration Process is here! Next week, all students will view the Registration presentation during their advisory homeroom, receive course registration forms, registration guides and participate in the Kennedy Exploration Cruise (January 24 & 25). The Cruise will give students a unique opportunity to learn more about specific course offerings to help them make decisions on core and elective courses to prepare them for their future. Teachers in core areas will provide course recommendations as well, which can be found on their course registration form.

We encourage students to take their academic planning seriously and they need support from various stakeholders to do so, including parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, etc. Far too many students, particularly seniors, are taking too light of course loads, frequently choosing 2-3 free periods versus taking coursework that can help them with their preparation for college and their future career. Soon, 90% of jobs will require some form of post-secondary training, degree or certification. We don't want any of our students to leave high school ill-equipped to tackle the rigors of the post-secondary marketplace.

All grade levels will register for classes over the next 4-5 weeks (see the timeline below).

February 1-5 – 9-11th grade students' Power School Window will be open to complete online registration. Registrations in Power School should reflect recommendations and course selections on the registration forms that students will turn in.

February 2 – Special Education (Level 2 & 3) and ELL students will complete registration with Counselors during assigned class times in computer labs. Completed registration forms will be collected at this time.

February 5 - March 9 – Current 11th grade students will individually review course registration and academic plans with Counselors. Meeting times will be coordinated by the counselors over the course of 5 weeks and all 11th grade students will have an individual meeting.

February 9 – Current 9th grade students will review online registrations with Counselors and Administrators during LA 9 class time in computer labs. Completed registration forms will be collected at this time.

February 16 - Current 10th grade students will review online registrations with Counselors and Administrators during LA 10 class time in computer labs. Completed registration forms will be collected at this time.

February 19 – Current students in Co-taught LA classes will review online registrations with Counselors and Administrators during class time in computer labs. Completed registration forms will be collected at this time.

The enclosed information highlights the variety of opportunities for students. There is also a wealth of information available on Registration Central on the Kennedy website here:

<http://kenn.cr.k12.ia.us/academics/cougar-registration-central/>.

Careful and thoughtful planning is a critical component of the registration process and to student success. We encourage you and your child to take advantage of the outstanding programming choices that are available at Kennedy. Best wishes with your journey through this process.

-Kennedy Counseling and Administrative Teams

Get More Out of High School -- Get a Head Start on the Future

Opportunity Quick Glance

For more specific information about these opportunities go to Registration Central on the Kennedy homepage: <http://kenn.cr.k12.ia.us/academics/cougar-registration-central/>.

College and Career Trends by the Numbers...

- 80% of future jobs will require a post-secondary training, degree or certification – the vast majority of these jobs will require “middle skills” and will NOT require a bachelor’s degree.
- \$30,000 – Average post-secondary debt in Iowa.
- Nationally, approximately 45% of students who attend a 4-year college graduate within six years; it’s approximately 25% for 2-year schools within three years.

KIRKWOOD ACADEMY

- 21 liberal arts transfer and career and technical education programs.
- Earn college and high school credit – all coursework receives a weighted grade.
- Can achieve advanced standing with program or major of choice -- can give students the opportunity to double-major or finish college sooner.
- Explore careers and college majors.
- Save on future college tuition expenses (potentially thousands of \$\$\$).
- Earn a certification that can lead to part or full-time employment.
- Have access to state-of-the-art equipment that meets industry standards.
- Must be a junior or senior.
- Consumes 2-3 periods a day depending on the experience.
- Go to school off campus for part of the day – transportation provided if needed.
- Gain insight and experience by being a college student prior to high school graduation.
- See the Kirkwood Academy Program of Study at www.kirkwood.edu/linnregional

IOWA BIG

- Project-based learning with authentic audiences and real world experience – competency based.
- Tap into passions and interests.
- Consumes a minimum of 2-3 periods a day.
- Build a unique and appealing resume that is appealing to colleges.
- Go to school off campus for part of the day – transportation provided if needed.
- Work in teams.
- Serve the community.
- Weighted grades available.

BUILDING TRADES

- Be a part of building a house from ground up and work with your hands.
- Explore the building trades – work with the pros in the industry.
- Go to school off campus for part of the day – transportation provided if needed.
- Must be a junior or senior.
- Consumes 2 periods a day.
- Gain real world experience prior to entering an apprenticeship program.
- Work in teams and develop real world job and employability skills.

DUAL or CONCURRENT CREDIT

- Earn college and high school credit – all coursework receives a weighted grade.
- Courses taught onsite at Kennedy.
- Courses Available:
 - Composition I and II (meets one year of Language Arts credit)
 - U.S. History to 1877 and U.S. History since 1877 (meets one year of U.S. History requirement)
 - Digital Imaging and Digital Illustrator
 - Project Lead the Way – Intro to Engineering, Principals of Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture.
- Composition I and II combined with Fundamentals of Oral Communication (off-campus only) will meet the Rhetoric Requirement at the University of Iowa and general studies requirements at ISU and UNI.
- Must be a junior or senior.

INTERNSHIP AND JOB SHADOW

- Explore careers or potential college programs of study.
- Rub elbows with professionals in the field.
- Resume builder.
- Extremely helpful for college and career planning.
- Apply for job shadows in September – one day experience.
- Internships are available fall, spring and summer – must meet application deadlines (usually one semester in advance).
- See more at www.workplace-learning.org