

John F. Kennedy High School

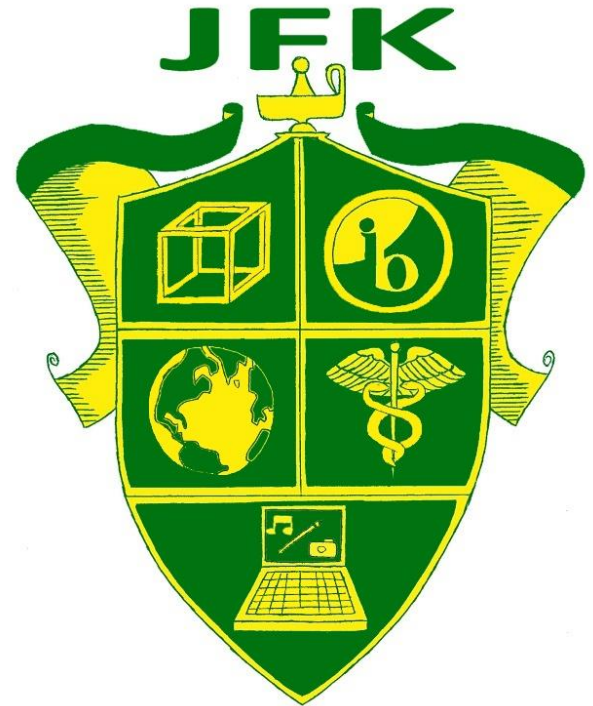
1901 Randolph Rd

Silver Spring, MD 20902

301-929-2100

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/

December 2014



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Happy Holidays from Kennedy High School! A special thank you to our fall sports student-athletes. Thank you for your hard work and dedication during the season. Kudos to our drama club for a wonderful fall production of Neil Simon's "Rumors." Our students gave an unforgettable performance!

Congratulations to our students who made the honor roll and who were "on a roll" for the first quarter. Academically we have seen our ineligibility rates (students with less than a 2.0 grade point average and/or students with more than one E) drop in every category. That means more of our students are obtaining higher levels of success in all of their classes.

As we enter the winter months, our school is continuing to work toward our school goals. At home, please encourage your child to set self-monitoring goals. This is an excellent way of helping students take ownership of their academic performance. To assist you in working with your child on goal setting, I am providing information below on setting SMART goals:

S= SPECIFIC goals -You want to make sure that your goal is clear and that you know what it is you are trying to accomplish.

M= MEASURABLE goals-How will you know when you reach your goal? Remember, what gets measured, gets done!

A= ACHIEVABLE oriented goals-You want to set goals that you can obtain through your work and actions.

R= RESULTS oriented goals-Your goals should clearly outline what you want to accomplish.

T= TIME FRAME for your goals-You want to set a timeframe for accomplishing your goal so you can evaluate your progress towards meeting your goal, and revise or replace your goal.

I believe that together we will have fruitful and enjoyable winter months. With your parental support, the effort of our students and staff, and school leadership that is caring and visionary, we will continue to build a school community that values high levels of citizenship and student achievement.

I wish you and yours a safe and very Happy Holiday!

Regards,

Joe L. Rubens
Joe L. Rubens, Principal

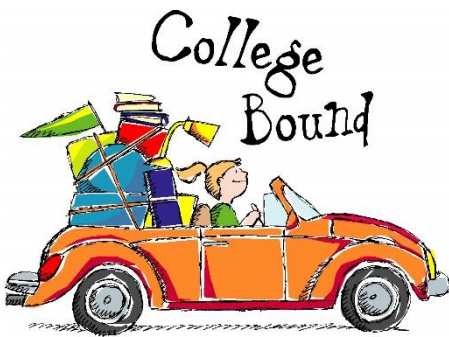
JFK celebrates 50 years



UPCOMING COLLEGE VISITS

Lincoln University, January 13 @ 9:15 am
 Montgomery College, Feb. 10 @ 10:45 am
 Morgan State University, March 2 @ 7:00 am
 Montgomery College, March 10 @ 10:45

For more information, contact Ms. Katrele Carroll in the Career Center.



COUNSELING NEWS

Happy Holidays from the Counseling Office. This month the counselors will be visiting classrooms to help students select classes for the 2015-2016 school year. Counselors are still working with 12th grade students to prepare them for their next journey to college, military or entering the working world. Students continue to meet with their counselors for academic and emotional support. As the holidays and the cold winter days approach, some students are going to need that extra push to get out of the bed and come to school. Exams are around the corner; and it is very important that students get to class on time, ready to learn. Students cannot afford to get lazy since credits play a big part in them moving to the next grade level or towards graduation. The winter weather can also be a time when your child could hit an emotional slump. If you notice any changes in your child's behavior at home, please contact your child's counselor so that we can lend some support. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's counselor to set up an appointment.

Donniel Gamble, Resource Counselor



CAREER CENTER NEWS

Financial Aid 2014 was a major success! Thank you to all the participants who disregarded the rainy cold night and attended. If you were not able to attend, no need to fear—Ms. Carroll is here!

NEED HELP REQUESTING A PIN OR COMPLETING THE FAFSA? NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN.. WE HAVE HELP !!!

FAFSA LAB 2015

Thursday, January 8, 2015
 1:30 P.M. -4:30 P.M.
 Career Center

PLEASE BRING

- Pin Number (Student & Parent)
- Social Security Number (Student & Parent)
- Tax Info (Returns, 1040, W-2, and License or ID info)
- Date of Birth & Email Address (Parent & Student)
- Non-US Citizen (Alien Reg. Number, Permanent Resident Card, or Work Authorization Number)

KEEP CALM AND FILE FAFSA

RSVP on Family Connection or to: Katrele_A_Carroll@mcpsmd.org
 (Limited Space Available)

To obtain a PIN-Please visit www.pin.ed.gov For more information on FAFSA, please visit www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA Lab 2015-Thursday, January 8, 2015: 1:30pm-4:30 pm

- Come have all your FAFSA questions answered and submit the application
- Bring tax documents and identification cards
- Request your Pin and get step-by-step instructions

RSVP on Family Connection or by email to Katrele_A_Carroll@mcpsmd.org

On site admissions events are in full swing. Seniors have many opportunities to apply to colleges, meet with the admissions rep, interview, and receive an admission decision right on the spot. Each college/university requires different criteria and all details are posted in Family Connection.

Need help completing the Montgomery College Application? Stop by the Career Center during lunch for assistance. Application fee will be waived until March 1, 2015.

Katrele A. Carroll, M. Ed.
 College Career Information Coordinator

A-Tech Department News

We are proud to announce that the Photographic Artwork of JFK student Erica Nguyen has been featured on our own JFK Homepage. This is a montage created using her own photographs while she was taking Photography 1B in the spring of 2014. Her artwork was chosen for the school website by administration as the best among a number of excellent designs. We are very proud of her work.

JFK's Rickerson Gallery will be hosting a new show of student artwork entitled, "The Art of Perspective," during November and December. Please stop by to view the work of Fundamentals of Art and Ceramics' students.

John Ekelund
A-Tech Resource Teacher



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to Mrs. Shaheena Uzzaman! Recently, Dr. Starr, Superintendent of MCPS, visited her classroom and TWEETED about the great Forensic Science lesson. The students were burning fibers. Different fibers behave differently as they approach the flame, burn in the flame, and the type of residue left over after the burn differs. The students had to use this knowledge to identify 3 unknown fibers. This lesson was truly relevant to the work of Forensic Scientists. Forensic Scientists use techniques such as this for evidence found at crime scenes. Yes, one hair fiber could help law enforcement solve a crime! GOOD WORK, Mrs. Uzzaman.



If you would like to know more about this or other activities and opportunities going on in the science classes; please contact your child's teacher.

Thank You!

Tamara B. Jennings ([Tamara B Jennings@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Tamara_B_Jennings@mcpsmd.org))
Science Resource Teacher

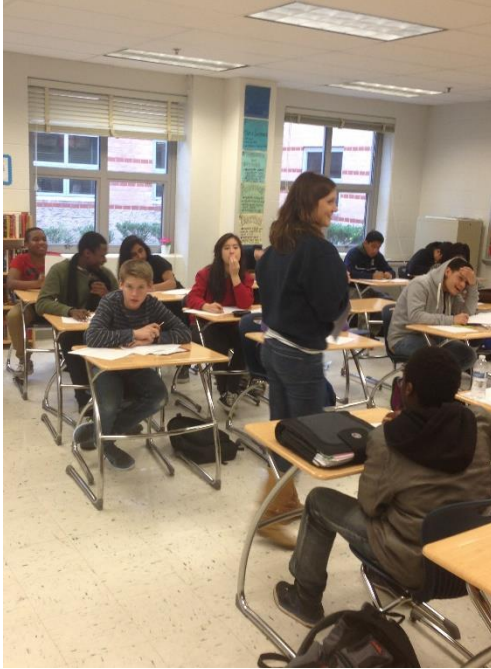
"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

The SGA student representatives had their third meeting of the school year December 3, 2014. Project Based Learning Semester Exams in Economics, Entrepreneurship, and Psychology took place December 15-19, 2014. The Social Studies Department would like to wish the Kennedy Community all the best during the Holiday Season.

Keith Adams
Social Studies Resource Teacher



WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT NEWS

In *Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1* (SS1), students read about recent social changes in Latin American cities due to population growth and economic development. Students then researched and wrote about some recent changes in the Washington, DC area and how they affect our daily lives. Finally, students conducted a Socratic Seminar where they discussed and compared social changes in different cities, and their families' experiences with said changes.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

SSS1: Nicole Chavarría (grade 9)

IB Spanish 5/6: Mia Manning (grade 12)

AP Spanish Lang: Yesenia Henríquez Zepeda (grade 10)

International Baccalaureate (IB) French students recently read about current events in Burkina Faso, and they were able to relate current political situations in the West African region and its potential impact on the rest of the world. The students then conducted an interactive oral presentation with photographs of demonstrators.

Ms. Elvide Meleance
World Languages Resource Teacher



SGA NEWS

The SGA proudly organized a winter **Food Drive for Manna Food Center** that ends on December 19th. Non-perishable food items should be brought to 1st period. Manna Food Center serves individuals right here in Montgomery County. To learn more visit: mannafood.org

Ally Week (December 15-19, a week empowering students to be allies against anti-LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning] bullying, harassment, and name calling). See Ms. Young or any Gay-Straight Alliance club member for details.

Katherine Young
Student Government Association Sponsor

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!"

Dr. Seuss



FITZ!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE NEWS

As the holidays approach, students are heavily involved in many aspects of student life at Kennedy High School. It is typically at this time of the year that we not only give thanks for what we have but also continue to look for opportunities to inspire and change the lives of others through random acts of kindness.

Congratulations to our October LTI Students of the Month.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| -Claire Awtrey | 9 th Grade |
| -Mia Hickman | 10 th Grade |
| -Rebecca Wesley | 11 th Grade |
| -Hally Moreno | 12 th Grade |

Upcoming dates

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| December 18: | LTI Fundraiser- Five Guys Burger and Fries (5pm to 9pm)
Aspen Hill Shopping Center
13509 Connecticut Ave.
Aspen Hill, MD 20906 |
| December 19: | LTI Town Hall Meeting (8 th Pd-cafeteria) |
| December 23: | LTI Dress: Dress for Success |
| January 15: | LTI Parent Night – Media Center 6:30 to 7:30pm |

Kofi Frempong
Leadership Training Institute Coordinator

MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Congratulations to Ms. Stacey Sanders who has become a NCBT National Board Certified Teacher!

In addition, 47 of our students entered The University of Maryland Mathematics Competition on November 11, 2014. Forty-seven of our students took the exam, and three of them scored the median of 14 and above.

College Institute students are busy preparing for registration for spring courses. We will offer COMM 108 – Intro to Human Communications, WMST 101 – Intro to Women’s Studies, and MUSC 131-- American Popular Music. One of our early college students will travel to the MC Campus to study Chinese. Some applicants have taken the Accuplacer test to qualify as college ready for these classes. Meanwhile, our students who take Sociology or English 110, are getting ready for final exams in mid-December.

Christine Aaron
College Institute (CI) Coordinator



PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

PE: The physical education department will finish this year with a volleyball unit. Students will learn how to forearm pass, overhead pass, serve, block, and position themselves on the court. The soccer class will demonstrate what they have learned by officiating the game. Students will be assessed on making the calls correctly, assertively, fairly, while communicating with the players.

Health Class: All health classes are in the family life human sexuality units. Students will learn about healthy and unhealthy relationships along with human sexuality, male and female anatomy, and child development. Students were required to have a permission form signed to be in class.

Brady Markel
Physical Education Resource Teacher



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

English 9

How convincing are you? If you need help developing an argument, ask one of the ninth graders. They have been learning about rhetoric and can explain how to use ethos, pathos and logos to build a strong argument.

English 10

Rashid Darden, a independently published writer, presented a series of workshops to Ms. Williams' 10th grade English class. Students participated in various writing exercises and word-association activities to get their creative juices flowing. The students, who were working on personal narratives, found the workshops very helpful, especially the students who had some struggles coming up with creative ways to narrate their story.

The English Department would like to recognize the November Students of the Month:

- 9 - Joselyn Romero
- 10 - Leon Schwarzer
- 11 – Ashley Velasquez
- 12 - Zenab Bakayoko

John Howard
English Resource Teacher



MCPS NEWS

PARCC Nights are Coming!

Parents: If you have questions about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments and Common Core State Standards, you won't want to miss upcoming PARCC nights! Come learn about the assessments, what they mean for your child, and how MCPS is preparing students for success on these new tests. You will be able to try your hand at a PARCC test item or two and pick up grade-level information and resources.

Monday, February 2, 2015

Montgomery Blair High School
51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring
6:30 p.m.—Resource Fair
7–9 p.m.—Program and Breakout Sessions

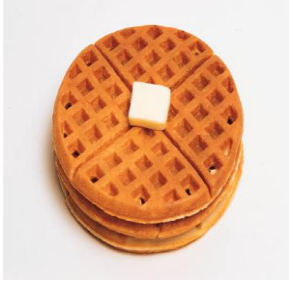
For more information, visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, search "PARCC Nights," or call 301-309-6277.

"In order to carry a positive action we must develop here a positive vision.

[Dalai Lama](#)

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

CavaJava has expanded! Their new offering--delicious HOMEMADE WAFFLES with TOPPINGS--has been a great hit! HOMEMADE BISCOTTI are coming soon. Keep looking for new items being added to the menu.



If you're free, come by the 2nd floor teacher lounge any time between 8:30 and 10:00 AM on Fridays to enjoy the lively chitchat with co-workers and great coffee, tea or cocoa along with waffles, fruit, pastries, donuts and other assorted yummy offerings. Parents are also welcome. Please sign in at the Main Office.

Students take orders on Thursdays for Friday deliveries to teachers in their classrooms during 2nd or 3rd period. The students purchase the food items and supplies as well.

If you miss us on Friday, we sometimes announce half-priced Mondays for staff during 2nd & 3rd periods in room 139.

Kate Stephansky
Resource Center Resource Teacher

Academy NEWS

After the winter break, students will begin to register for classes for next year. All students were able to review their academy pathways during the Academy Mentoring Period (AMP). Students should speak with Ms. K. Wright, or their guidance counselor if they have questions or concerns about courses they need to take to earn their academy completion cord and certificate. Ninth graders will participate in an academy fair in January, where they will learn about the academies and programs in detail. Once they attend the fair, they will apply to the academy of their choice.

Follow us on Twitter to keep up with the great things we have happening in our academies. www.twitter.com/JFKAcademies

[Kaleisha M Wright@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kaleisha_M_Wright@mcpsmd.org).

Kaleisha Wright
Academies Coordinator



"Family is not an important thing. It's everything."

Michael J. Fox

ESOL DEPARTMENT NEWS

Greetings to all. Before the winter break, please ask your child to bring home class materials to start studying for semester exams.

Semester exam review will start the week of January 6-9th. For your child to feel confident and be successful on exams, he or she MUST study 3-4 days consecutively, at least 30 minutes per day for each class.

Teachers give students review sheets and practice assignments to help them prepare. Reviewing class materials during the winter break is crucial. In our system, exams are weighted about 20% of the semester grades.

Also have your child check Edline because some of the materials will be posted on Edline.

After exams, we will begin testing your child's language skills in order to place them in the correct ESOL level for 2015-2016. These tests are called ACCESS/WIDA tests.

This testing is state mandated, and your child will be tested in reading, writing and listening in groups; and he or she will be tested one-on-one by an ESOL-certified teacher in speaking.

You can read more about these tests at <http://www.wida.us/assessment/access/>.



Student of the Month Awards for effort, homework and showing respect:

ESOL 1

Misael Perez

ESOL 2

Krissia Romero

Maiara Alves

ESOL 3

Lenny Portillo

Thunchanok Nanudon

Academic Reading

Mekdes Tiroro

ESOL 4

Sander Valle Contreras

ESOL 1 MAPS

Mebratu Ayele

ESOL 1 MAPS

Estefani Reyes

DESTINATION GRADUATION

The Class of 2018 has set the bar high! Not only did 80% of our ninth grade students meet the 2.0 GPA eligibility requirement for the first marking period, but they also had the highest number of students on the honor roll. To celebrate their achievement, the Destination Graduation team hosted an ice cream sundae social on December 5th during eighth period.

Now that we are mid-way through the second marking period, continue to encourage your student to exercise the same level of commitment towards his/her academic progress. Check Edline on a regular basis and communicate with your child's teachers if you have concerns.

Thank you,
Mrs. Tracey Wright
Ninth Grade Team Leader



"Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get."

Dale Carnegie

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/17 Boys' Basketball
Northwood@JFK
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
Girls' Basketball
JFK@Northwood
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
- 12/19 Boys' Basketball
JFK@Springbrook, 5:15p V
Springbrook@JFK, 3:30p JV
Girls' Basketball
Springbrook@JFK, 5:15p JV
JFK@Springbrook, 7:00p V
- 12/20 Swimming&Diving
Paint Branch & JFK@
Mont. College, Takoma Park
12:00 noon
Wrestling
JFK & Quince Orchard@
Rockville, 1:00p V
- 12/22 Boys' Basketball
Sherwood@JFK
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
Girls' Basketball
JFK@Sherwood
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
- 1/06 Boys' Basketball
Paint Branch@JFK, 3:30p JV
JFK@Paint Branch, 5:15p V
Girls' Basketball
Paint Branch@JFK, 5:15p JV
JFK@Paint Branch, 7:00p V

