

John F. Kennedy High School

1901 Randolph Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20902
301-929-2100

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/kennedyhs/

January 2015



Message from the Principal

Dear John F. Kennedy High School parents and guardians,

Happy 2015! On behalf of our staff, may this New Year bring you and your family good health, happiness, prosperity and togetherness. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable winter break. 2014 was filled with great accomplishments. The JFK HS family should take pride in all we have achieved. Together we will take Kennedy HS to even greater heights in 2015.

The window for the end of unit cumulating activities and semester exams opens for all students this month. Exam review is Friday, January 9, 2015. Our bell schedule will be adjusted to accommodate activities and exams, Monday, January 12, 2015, through Friday, January 16, 2015. The adjusted bell schedule information was sent home with students on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. This information will also

be emailed to you, posted on our school web site and on the PTSA list serve.

The second marking period/first semester ends for students Friday, January 16, 2015. Monday, January 19, 2015, is Martin Luther King Jr. Day and schools and offices are closed. Tuesday, January 20, 2015, is a professional grading day for teachers, and there is no school for students. The third marking period/second semester begins Wednesday, January 21, 2015. Report cards for the second marking period will be sent home with students Thursday, January 29, 2015.

Best wishes for an outstanding new year!

Regards,

Joe L. Rubens
Joe L. Rubens, Principal

JFK celebrates 50 years



COUNSELING NEWS

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. The Counselors will be busy the next few months with the ongoing college application process as well as getting students registered for classes for the 2015-2016 school year. Students should have shared with parents/guardians the white registration form which contained their class recommendations for next school year. Students were encouraged to return them to the Counseling Office before the Winter Break. The Career Counseling office has a lot of visits scheduled for second semester. Please refer to the Kennedy website for upcoming college visits and on site admission visits. If you have activated your Family Connections account, you can receive a personal email in advance of the upcoming visits. Please contact Ms. Carroll if you have not activated your account. Important information regarding scholarships, grants and college visits are sent every week. On Thursday, January 8, from 1:30-4:30 p.m., there will be a FAFSA lab in the College Career Office. You must register in advance. You can contact Ms. Carroll at [Katrele A. Carroll@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Katrele.A.Carroll@mcpsmd.org). 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. Below is the counselor assignment for you to use as a reference.

A-C and ESOL 5 ; Ms. Benitez

D-K; Ms. Wilson

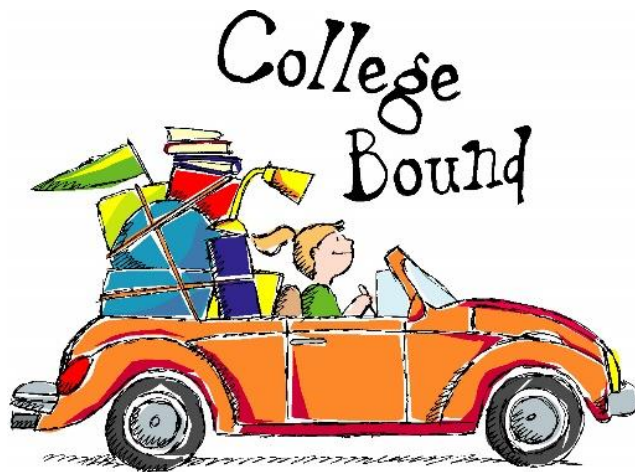
L-P; Ms. Haddaway

Q-Z; Mr. Quiroz

9th grade; Ms. Gamble

ESOL 1-4; Ms. Garcia-Catipon

Alternative 1; Ms. Guthrie



Donniel Gamble, Resource Counselor



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE NEWS

Class registration for next year starts the week of January 26, through English classes. Did you know that IB classes are open to all Kennedy juniors and seniors? IB classes can help you be better prepared for the SAT and ACT exams, as well as being better prepared for college. College admissions officers actively seek out IB students because they are better prepared for college courses, according to several major studies. IB students have higher college GPAs and are 75% more likely to graduate on time. Kennedy offers the IB Diploma but also allows students to just participate in one or more IB classes in a range of subjects including English, World Language, History, Math, Science, and the Arts. For more information about IB classes, students should see Mrs. Wahrman in room 105. She will also be available in the Media Center to answer questions during the registration process.

Stacey Wahrman, IB Coordinator



A-Tech Department News

Band

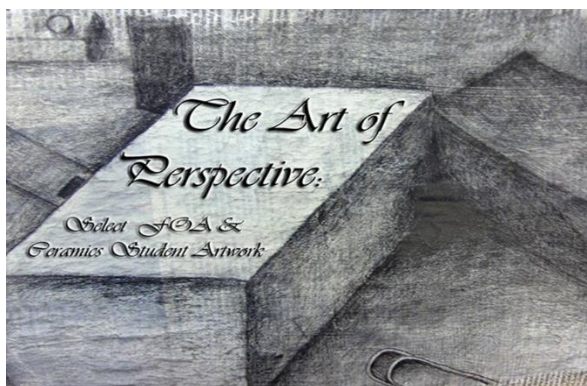
Sophomore Emerson Miller auditioned for the Senior All-State Band last month along with 2000 other Maryland band students. Emerson placed fifth in the French Horn section and will be representing Kennedy at their concert in February. Congratulations, Emerson!

Band students and the Instrumental Music Teacher, Ms. Hubbell volunteered for the Breakfast with Santa and Heroes Fundraiser, December 13 and 14, playing selected holiday pieces. Art student volunteers created a beautiful big hand painted backdrop for the event.



Art

Don't miss the Rickerson Gallery's special exhibit at Kennedy through January entitled The Art of Perspective: Selected FOA and Ceramics Student Artwork.



Internship: Featured Student

Jason Moy, interns at a local law firm. There he takes notes on evidence and organizes files which he then takes to the courthouse to be dated, stamped and approved. Jason aspires to be an attorney. He said, "I like my site because I see firsthand how the law process works and observe interesting cases."

Nominated by Ms. Katrele Carroll, Jason was recently awarded the Posse Foundation Scholarship acknowledging his extraordinary academic and leadership potential. As a Posse Scholar he will receive a four-year, full tuition scholarship to Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. "The internship program has definitely helped me build my portfolio and gain experience in law."

Business

Kudos to Ms. Moody's IB Business and Management students who recently participated in mock interviews with community business leaders. Students formed powerful connections with business professionals and received valuable feedback on their interviewing skills.

John Ekelund
A-Tech Resource Teacher

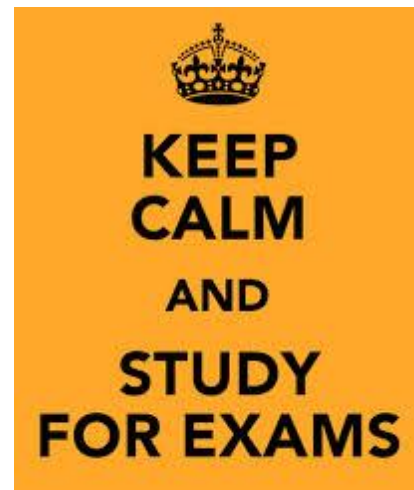


SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's time to get back to basics and think about the end of first semester. The end of first semester means that semester exams are upon us. Please encourage your student to prepare for their science final exam! Exams count 25% of the semester grade, so it is important that students do well on these assessments. Please click on the link below to access the study guides for science courses.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/science/high/>



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)
Science Resource Teacher

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

John F. Kennedy

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

Social Studies Resource Teacher, Mr. Keith Adams, will be presenting at the Black Student-Athlete Conference at the University of Texas January 7, 2015, on the topic of, "Can Athletic Success Breed Academic Success?"

<http://ddce.utexas.edu/blackstudentathleteconference/program/>

Social Studies Classes are preparing for Semester Exams during the week of January 5-9, 2015.

Keith Adams
Social Studies Resource Teacher



WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT NEWS

The members of the *World Languages Department* wish to extend their thanks to the students who joined us on December 11 for our Elective Fair.

Madame Umarji wishes to extend her congratulations to Mariah DePaul for her best academic performance for going "above and beyond" in French class.

In *French 2*, Vanesa Eyo and Ronald Argueta are considered the stars of the class. In Madame Umarji's *French 3* class, students played a verb game as a vocabulary review for the current unit.

"Happy New Year!" from all the members of the World Languages Department!

Ms. Elmide Meleance
World Languages Resource Teacher

SGA NEWS

The SGA thanks all those students and teachers who participated in the SGA food drive for Manna Food Center. We were able to collect hundreds of food items to donate to those in need right here in Montgomery County.

The Gay-Straight Alliance is thankful to all who participated in Ally Week (a week empowering students to be allies against anti-LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning] bullying, harassment, and name calling) from December 15-19. We had over 100 students sign that they are allies to the LGBTQ community, and we hosted an inspiring guest speaker from Free-State Legal.

Katherine Young
Student Government Association Sponsor



"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Thomas A. Edison



LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE NEWS

January is a 'slow' month as far as program events go in LTI, but it's quite a busy academic time. It's an especially exciting time for our seniors, as they have finished their senior service projects and will now begin their career-based internships. And between exams, testing, the winter sports season, and the beginning of the second semester, all of our students have plenty to keep them busy. Let's keep up the good work and start 2015 off right!

Upcoming date:

Thursday, January 15: LTI Parent Night, 6:30-7:30pm in the Media Center

Kofi Frempong
Leadership Training Institute Coordinator



FITZ!

MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Our college classes have both given their finals. New spring semester classes will begin January 26. We will offer Speech and Women's Studies. This is the first time that Kennedy has ever offered a class in Women's Studies. It is also the first time that students have taken 2 college classes during the same semester.

Recruitment has begun for Fall 2015. All Kennedy students will receive a discounted rate for a 3 credit college course. In fact, about half of our qualified students will receive a full scholarship and pay nothing for these college credits. In the fall, we will offer Criminal Justice, Sociology, and English Grammar. Please encourage high flying juniors and seniors to apply for this accelerated program. Since students must fulfill an application process, ask students to meet as soon as possible with Ms. Aaron in room 241, the Math Office.

Sophomores with a CGPA of 3.0 and above and who will be 16 by September 2015 are encouraged to apply. Juniors with a CGPA of 2.75 and above are also encouraged to apply. All students will then take the Accuplacer in order to see if they are college ready. Those students with qualifying SAT or ACT scores need not take this test. Don't miss out on this educational opportunity.

*Important News for College Institute Applicants who apply for a grant

The Montgomery College grant will now cover the Montgomery College fees and required books for 2 classes. Previously the grant only covered the MC fees and required text books for one class. Therefore, if you want to take 2 college courses per semester, both will be covered by the MC grant. Of course, you must qualify for the grant. See Ms. Aaron to find out how to qualify.

Christine Aaron
College Institute (CI) Coordinator

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

PE: During the last week of Physical Education in the Second Quarter, students will complete their Post-Fitness Testing. They are looking at their Pre-Test Scores and seeing how well they have improved during the semester. Tests include: Pacer Test, Sit & Reach Test, Curl-up Test, Push-up Test, Height and Weight.

Health Class: Classes are finishing the Disease Prevention and Control Unit. The students will learn about STDs, HIV/AIDS, Condom use, and Abstinence.

Brady Markel
Physical Education Resource Teacher



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Ninth grade students just completed a research project examining world religions. They learned about the history, beliefs, followers and artifacts. They illustrated their findings through scrapbook and PowerPoint presentations. The project not only gave them a wider outlook on religion itself, but helped the students become more culturally sensitive as well.

John Howard
English Resource Teacher



MCPS NEWS

The Montgomery County Board of Education has approved the calendar for the 2015-2016 school year. The school year will begin on Monday, August 31, 2015 and is scheduled to end on Friday, June 17, 2016. Winter Break will run from Thursday, December 24, 2015 to Friday, January 1, 2016. Spring Break will run from Friday, March 25, 2016 to Friday, April 1, 2016. Students will also be off on Monday, April 4, 2016 (teacher work day) and Tuesday April 5, 2016 (primary elections). You can view the full calendar on the MCPS website.

As you may be aware, the Board of Education also voted to remove references to religious holidays from the school calendar. It is important to understand that this action does not change the days that students have off—MCPS will be closed for the same holidays next school year as it has been in the past. This action also does not impact the operations of our school or the instructional program in any way. For more information about the decision, please read this blog post from the President and Vice President of the Board: <http://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mcps-board-of-education/following-the-law-on-the-school-calendar/>

View the 2015-2016 Calendar: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/calendars/future/index.aspx>

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

Walt Disney

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

"Life after High School"

We are proud of our seniors who have worked hard to be successful in career programs both here at JFKHS and at MCPS Thomas Edison High School of Technology. These students are now moving on to further their education in their chosen careers.

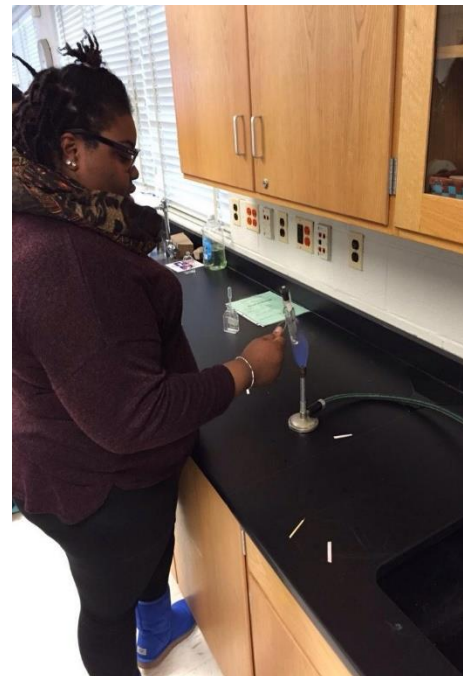
One graduating senior has been awarded a full scholarship to Montgomery College's Construction Management Program. He completed the plumbing program at Edison High School, earning his plumbing license for a plumbing apprenticeship. We are proud that he displayed tenacity in his work, courtesy in his interactions with staff and students and took responsibility for his choices.

A second senior came to JFKHS specifically to take CavaJava as preparation for working towards a culinary career. He has earned his Culinary Certification with honors from the Edison Culinary program. Now this student is heading to Providence, Rhode Island, where he's been accepted into the Johnson & Wales' Culinary program.

A third senior who also started her culinary career in CavaJava at JFKHS has been accepted into the culinary program at Allegheny College in Cumberland, Maryland.

Lastly, another senior has been granted a government security clearance and is working part time in a local government agency.

Kate Stephansky
Resource Center Resource Teacher



Academy NEWS

Academy Fair

On Friday, January 23rd, ninth grade students will be participating in an academy fair. Upper classmen from all of the academies will be on hand to answer questions and share information on their special projects and activities. At Kennedy, all students are a part of at least one academy or special program.

Students are able to choose from:

- Business Management and Administration Academy
- Broadcast Journalism and Communications Academy
- Creative Arts Academy
- Health Academy and Medical Careers
- Leadership Training Institute
- Naval Junior ROTC
- International Baccalaureate

If you are interested in attending our academy fair please contact Ms. Kaleisha Wright.

Follow us on Twitter @JFKAcademies

Kaleisha_M_Wright@mcpsmd.org

Kaleisha Wright
Academies Coordinator



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss

ESOL DEPARTMENT NEWS

Happy New Year to all parents and guardians of ESOL students!

IMPORTANT ESOL Testing News

This month all students take exams in ESOL 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 January 8-16th. This exam is worth about 20% of your child's semester grade, so it is very important. (In Maryland, we average the grades for quarter one + quarter two + the exam = the semester grade.) If your child is sick and misses an exam, you must write a note to get the absence excused so your child can make up the exam. Make-ups are Jan. 16th from 10AM-12:10AM. January 19th is a national holiday and January 20th there is no school because the teachers are finishing grades and preparing for second semester.

To help your child prepare, try to make sure they have a quiet place to study, they go to sleep by 9PM, and they eat breakfast the morning before the exam. Also you and your child can check Edline. Teachers often put review sheets and links for practice on Edline.

The end of January ESOL placement tests start. It's called the ACCESS/WIDA tests. It is mandated by the State of Maryland. Students, including students who signed a refusal of ESOL services, will take reading, listening and writing tests between January 28-29, and the speaking tests will happen the first week of February. This test determines your child's English placement for next year.

The more effort your child puts into studying (at least 30 minutes to an hour a day) and reading at home in English (we recommend at least 20 minutes), the more success he or she will have on these exams.

Elizabeth Fuhrman
ESOL Resource Teacher



NJROTC NEWS

Here are the NJROTC items.

- 10 Jan: Gaithersburg Drill Competition
- 15 Jan: NJROTC culminating Activity at 10:00 – 12:00 Main Gym
- 15 Jan: La Plata High School Brain Brawl, 6 PM
- 20 Jan: NJROTC Boosters meeting in Room 121 at 6:30 PM
- 21 Jan: NJROTC Military Ball tickets go on sale - \$25
- 24 Jan: Area 5 Rifle Team Championship Match at Annapolis High School

Commander Leonard Greig
NJROTC Senior Naval Science Instructor

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."

Confucius

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/10 Swimming & Diving
JFK, Paint Branch, &
Springbrook@Germantown
Indoor Swim Center, 11:30a
- 1/17 Swimming & Diving
Wheaton & JFK@Kennedy
Shriver Aquatic Center, 11:30a
- 1/17 Wrestling
BCC@JFK
1:00p V, 2:00p JV
- 1/20 Boys' Basketball
JFK@BCC
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
Girls' Basketball
BCC@JFK
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
- 1/21 Springbrook@JFK
6:00p V, 7:00p JV
- 1/23 Boys' Basketball
Richard Montgomery@JFK
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
Girls' Basketball
JFK@Richard Montgomery
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
- 1/24 Swimming&Diving
JFK & Rockville@
Martin Luther King Swim
Ctr., 11:30a
Wrestling
JFK@Walter Johnson,
2:30p V, 3:30p JV
- 1/26 Boys' Basketball
JFK@Springbrook, 5:15p JV
Springbrook@JFK, 7:00p V
Girls' Basketball
JFK@Springbrook, 3:30p JV
Springbrook@JFK, 5:15p V
- 1/28 Boys' Basketball
JFK@Sherwood
5:15p JV, 7:00p V
Girls' Basketball
Sherwood@JFK
5:15p JV, 7:00p V

