



August 14, 2023

Dear Kennedy Middle School Family:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year. For many of you, it is a welcome back and a continuation of all the exciting experiences Kennedy has to offer. For others, it is a brand-new journey filled with excitement and new opportunities. To all of you, welcome. We are committed to meeting your child's academic and social needs through a positive, safe and orderly environment. Please take some time to review the information on the adjacent pages that cover some frequently asked questions.

Kennedy MS has high expectations for all students, parents and school staff. We are committed to providing a rigorous academic program along with the appropriate social support to assist your child in excelling during the middle school years. It will take all of us working together to accomplish great things at Kennedy. I am committed to open lines of communication with all members of the school community.

Your child should report to first block A-day on his/her first day, August 28. **All student schedules will be available in your child's Powerschool account after August 18.** If you are unable to login to Powerschool, schedules will be available at our open house (see info below).

Open house is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup> grade student open house will be from 4:00-5:30 and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade open house will be from 5:30-7:00. Open house is a drop in event where students can walk the building, visit classrooms, and meet teachers.

Kennedy Middle School's hours of operation are 9:15 am to 4:15 pm. Please do not drop your child off at school before 8:45 am and pick up is by 4:30 pm each day. We are a uniform school (see policy below); therefore, all students need to be in uniform on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. On the following pages, you will find important information about the opening of school. In addition, the 2023-2024 school supply list and uniform policy is posted on the Kennedy webpage.

On behalf of the entire staff at Kennedy Middle School, welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. Please give us a call if you have questions (980.343.5540).

Educationally Sound,

Kevin Sudimack - Principal

**Listed below is some important student information. Please contact the school if you have any questions.**



### **TRANSPORTATION/BUS SCHEDULES AND ROUTES**

Enclosed in this letter is the transportation sticker for your child. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A BUS ASSIGNMENT, YOU DID NOT COMPLETE THE CMS "INTENT TO RIDE" FORM. This form is available on the Kennedy website. Please take note of your child's bus number, the bus stop and the expected times your child will be picked up and dropped off. You want to be sure that your child boards his or her assigned bus. Please have your child at the bus stop at least 15 minutes prior to pick-up time. Make sure your child knows his/her morning and afternoon bus numbers for the first day of school. It is important that our school partners with you as we work through any details related to transportation. Please be flexible with the bus schedule during the first three weeks of school while CMS Transportation Department evaluates the bus runs. In addition, if you have moved during the summer, please make sure that you are still eligible for transportation to your assigned school. Transportation Service Request Forms, safety concerns and all other general transportation questions are directed to CMS transportation, as Kennedy Middle School does not control transportation.

### **THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

The first day of school for students is **Monday, August 28**. Please anticipate heavy traffic during the first week of school. The elementary carpool line backs up to Kennedy and causes traffic congestion. We understand that the first day of middle school can be a stressful experience for students and parents; however, please refrain from walking your child into the building on the first day. This will assist with traffic flow. Please note: ***Parents who bring students to school should do so after 8:45 am to ensure proper supervision.***

### **SCANNERS**

All CMS middle schools, high schools and K-8 schools are equipped with scanners. Students will be required to enter the building through the front doors or cafeteria door. As a result, students cannot be on campus prior to 8:45am. In addition, please do not purchase wheel backpacks or 3-ring trapper keeper binders. These items set off the scanners and cause a delay in the arrival process.

### **DISMISSAL**

Student dismissal is at 4:10. The 1<sup>st</sup> wave of bus riders are dismissed first and car riders are dismissed second. All students should be picked up from campus by 4:30.

### **GRADE LEVEL ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNSELOR**

6<sup>th</sup> Administrator: Ms. McCain

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor: Ms. Chatmon

7<sup>th</sup> Administrator: Ms. Cafero

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor: Mr. Janawsky

8<sup>th</sup> Administrator: Ms. Mateen

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor: Ms. D'Rozario

Feel free to contact the appropriate grade administrator or counselor with questions or concerns regarding your child.



## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AT KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

In order for our school to maintain a safe and orderly environment, extreme and/or disruptive behavior is not acceptable at Kennedy Middle School. *The Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Student Rights, Responsibilities and Character Development Handbook* is available to view on the CMS website and contains rules that all students in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System will abide by. Kennedy Middle School will not accept bullying or harassing behavior. I strongly encourage each family to review these rules together. During the first few days of school, students will receive an orientation.

## **STUDENT CELL PHONES**

Recent studies have shown that middle school age students receive on average 40-60 notifications a day. These come from Instagram, SnapChat, Text, Email, News Alerts, ESPN and phone calls. These notifications cause a disruption in the learning environment. As a result, student cell phones must be put away during class times or turned into the teacher to be locked up. Students will have the ability to check their phones during class changes. Teachers will confiscate any cell phone that is being used during class. Repeated violations could result in parent pick-up.

## **DRESS CODE – Kennedy MS is a Uniform school and all students must be in uniform daily**

Several local stores (Kohl's, Old Navy, Walmart, and Target) sell standard school uniforms. I highly recommend purchasing multiple uniforms in various sizes. The availability of school uniforms declines throughout the school year. Reach out to your counselor if you need financial assistance. Bottoms: Khaki or Navy colored; only pants, shorts or skirts are permitted. All shorts and skirts must be fingertip length. Jeans, camo, sweatpants, jeggings, and yoga pants are not allowed. Tops: Collared white or navy solid colored shirts are required. Shoes: Permitted shoes include Boots, sneakers, sandals and dress shoes. Flip Flops are not allowed. Repeated violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary action.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS**

All social media posts related to school threats and safety are taken seriously. The CMS police department along with CMPD conduct thorough investigations into such events. Please have conversations with your student about the serious nature of making social media threats. It is recommended that you frequently check your child's cell phone and to monitor their social media platforms. Cell phones and social media continue to be one of largest issues for middle school kids.

## **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

Breakfast is FREE for all students. The state of North Carolina no longer provides free lunches to students; therefore, if you would like to apply for "free/reduced" lunch you must complete the Free/Reduced Lunch application document on the CMS or Kennedy MS website.



### **PTO**

We are currently looking for parents that would be interested in serving a leadership role within PTO. Please let Mr. Sudimack know if you are interested. Be on the lookout for more information during the first few weeks of school.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Good communication between the home and the school is an important part of the educational process. The Kennedy MS web site is a great source of information. Parent Square will be the new method of parent communication between parents and teachers. More information will be available at open house. Please make sure we have your most up-to-date contact information (phone numbers and email address). In addition, you can follow us on Instagram @kennedy\_middle.

### **PARKING AND CARPOOL INFORMATION**

Please do not enter the bus lot when dropping off or picking up students. Parents and students should follow the directions of the staff member assigned to the carpool area to ensure safety for all. Beginning at 3:45 carpool usually begins to form. We use a two-lane system so cars are not stretched out to Brown-Grier Road; therefore, our main drive is blocked to all traffic beginning at 3:45. Please plan for HEAVY traffic the first few days of school.

### **ATHLETICS**

Per CMS Policy, Middle School athletics are for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders only. Students are required to have a sports physical to try-out for sports. Sports physicals are not offered at the school and must be obtained through your pediatrician or a CVS minute clinic.

### **BUS INFORMATION (if applicable)**

### **CMS Transportation Parent Call Center**

**980-343-6715**