



July 31, 2024

Dear Kennedy Middle School Family:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2024-2025 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. Parents often ask me how they can best support their Middle School child. Here are my top two recommendations for parents. One, monitor your child's cell phone messages, social media platforms, and screen time. Two, take 5-10 minutes every night to sit with your child and review their PowerSchool information for missing assignments and assessments.

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 26. **All temporary student schedules will be available in your child's Powerschool account the week of August 12.** If you are unable to login to Powerschool, schedules will be available at our open house. Student Bus assignments are available through AlphaRoute (<https://www.cmsk12.org/Page/10665>). Bus labels are no longer printed by CMS.

Open house is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21. 6th grade student open house will be from 4:30-6:00 and 7th/8th grade open house will be from 6:00-7:30. Open house is a drop in event where students can walk the building, visit classrooms, and meet teachers. **Take note that all student schedules will be temporary schedules until the week of September 23.** This will allow us to account for student movement and enrollment changes.

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 1st day of school. On the following pages, you will find important information about the opening of school. In addition, the 2024-2025 school supply list and uniform policy is posted on the Kennedy webpage. Please do not purchase medal 3-ring binders or rolling backpacks' as these slow down the scanner process.

On behalf of the entire staff at Kennedy Middle School, welcome to the 2024-2025 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

Bus information is available through the CMS AlphaRoute web site (<https://www.cmsk12.org/Page/10665>). You will need to create a AlphaSystem Account. IF YOU DO NOT SEE A BUS ASSIGNMENT, YOU DID NOT COMPLETE THE CMS “INTENT TO RIDE” FORM and you must contact CMS transportation. 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 the 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 should be 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 26**. 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 1st wave of bus riders are dismissed first and car riders are dismissed second. All students should be picked up from campus by 4:30.

ADMINISTRATORS AND COUNSELORS

Administrator: Ms. Goodrum 6/7 Grade Counselor: Ms. Chatmon
Administrator: Ms. Anderson 7/8 Grade Counselor: Mr. Janawsky
Administrator: Ms. Mateen



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. I strongly encourage each family to review these rules together. During the first few days of school, students will receive an orientation on the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

STUDENT CELL PHONES

Recent studies have shown that middle school age students receive on average 80-90 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 will result in parent pick-up and loss of cell privilege.

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 and Lunch is FREE for all students. However, if your 7th or 8th grade child intends to participate in athletics, I recommend applying for a free/reduced lunch so that their athletic participation fee is waived. The Free/Reduced Lunch application document on the CMS child nutrition website.



DOORDASH, UBEREATS, AND FOOD DELIVERY

Students cannot order food through vendor services such as DoorDash or UberEats as this creates a competition with the cafeteria and is in violation of North Carolina State Policy.

PTO

We are currently looking for parents that would be interested in serving a leadership role within PTO. Please let Ms. Goodrum 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 and the Connect Ed system is the continued method of parent communication. 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 as this is reserved for our busses and Extension 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. DURING PICK UP TIME, PLEASE STAY IN THE CARPOOL LINE AND DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PASS THE LINE AND PARK.

ATHLETICS

Per CMS Policy, Middle School athletics are for 7th and 8th 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.

CHROMEBOOKS

CMS issues Chromebooks to each student in grades in 6-8. All students are financially responsible for their Chromebook. Damages and/or Chromebook loss fees must be paid prior to a second Chromebook being distributed.