



September 20, 2021

Dear John F. Kennedy Families:

A mix of new and old news items follow. As always, call the school with questions at (916) 395-5090.

### **COVID Testing**

As a reminder, COVID testing is available on campus every day. Students may report to V-4 (The "Care Room") between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. No appointment or advance registration is required. Students may be tested as frequently as they see fit. For questions about COVID testing, call the school at (916) 395-5090.

Information, all part of the District's Return to Health plan, is available [here](#).

### **Masks**

Help us stay safe by reiterating to your student the importance of wearing a well-fitting mask that covers both nose and mouth. District policy requires masks to be worn inside and outside. They will be provided to students who need them.

Working together, we will do our part to slow the spread of COVID!

### **Athletics**

Winter sports are getting under way! If your student is interested in soccer, basketball, or wrestling, [submit an athletic clearance](#). The sooner, the better! For questions about winter sports, contact the appropriate coach using [the coach directory](#).

Be sure to follow Cougar athletics! Our student athletes are on a roll! Calendar information has been published, and you can view it [here](#).

### **Picture Day**

Picture day is tomorrow, September 21 (freshmen, sophomores) and Wednesday, September 22 (juniors, seniors). More information is [here](#).

## **Back-to-School Night**

Mark your calendars! This year's Back-to-School Night will be virtual and conducted on Thursday, September 30. More information will follow soon.

## **EQ Ambassadors**

The school's Emotional Quotient (EQ) ambassadors are specially trained Kennedy juniors and seniors who represent the diversity of our community. EQ ambassadors work as peer mentors who are available to support other students with both social-emotional and academic needs.

For questions about EQ, contact Assistant Principal Glasper [here](#) or her assistant Robyn Mutchler [here](#).

## **Food**

Food delivery services are not permitted at school. DoorDash, Grubhub, Uber Eats, and others will be refused at the door.

As a reminder, your student, every student, eats for free! Breakfast is served in the cafeteria at 7:30, and lunch includes nutritious yet delicious offerings!

## **Absences**

Remember to call in your student's absence. Do that by dialing (916) 395-5090, extension 506030. Per District policy, an absence caused by any symptom that could potentially be a sign of a COVID infection will require a negative COVID test before the student may return to campus. I understand that this may create an inconvenience, but it is important that we do each our part to keep our community safe.

If you wish to supply your student's proof of vaccine, you may do that by bringing it to the front office. Vaccine data can be uploaded to Infinite Campus. This may speed your child's return in the event of a contact tracing event.

## **Chromebooks**

Is your student in need of a Chromebook? Chromebooks may be checked out in the library during textbook distribution and in the Counseling Center before or after school.

## **PSAT/NMSQT/SAT**

October 13 is the day! The (P) SAT for grades nine, ten, and twelve will be offered at no cost. Juniors pay \$18 to take the PSAT. For more information, contact Estela Brown [here](#).

## **LCFF Survey**

Like last year (and the year before that), the District LCFF survey is used to determine school site funding. Although I know that it is sometimes easy to conclude that one voice won't matter, I can assure you otherwise. This year, Kennedy received \$300,000 based on results

from last year's survey. It absolutely matters. Click [here](#) for more information and to take the survey.

### **The Option of Independent Study**

For any family who prefers schooling at home, the District has issued information about an independent study option. To learn more, click [here](#). If your student is currently in transition from Kennedy to Capital City, independent study is available via us. Contact the school for more information.

### **Dress Code**

Based on extensive feedback from teachers, staff, students, and families, the school's dress code has been heavily revised. It is available [here](#) and effective immediately.

### **Drop Off and Pick Up**

Drop off and pick up students from the west parking lot (corner of Florin Road and Gloria Drive). Do not utilize the east lot as the new gates are not unlocked from the outside. As a reminder, traffic, especially with the changes recently made on Florin Road, is expected to be heavy. If you want to miss the worst of it, drop off before 7:45 and pick up after 3:45. Alternatively, select a pick-up and drop-off location within walking distance of the school but far enough away to avoid the congestion.

As a reminder, Gloria Drive can be difficult to navigate early in the morning when the sun is low in the sky. Drive carefully, and watch for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Contact us at (916) 395-5090, or email me at [David-VanNatten@scusd.edu](mailto:David-VanNatten@scusd.edu).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Van Natten", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Van Natten