



# RISING 9TH GRADE

Registration Guide 2025-2026

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## KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

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@CRKennedyHigh



@crkennedyprincipal



@CRKennedyHigh



# Welcome to Kennedy!

Dear Incoming 9th Grade Students and Families,

Welcome to the exciting transition into high school! As your principal, I am thrilled to welcome you to Kennedy High School and to what promises to be a transformative and rewarding chapter in your educational journey at CRCSD. The transition to high school is an important milestone, filled with opportunities for academic growth, personal development, and new experiences. At Kennedy High School, we are committed to fostering a supportive and challenging learning environment where all students are encouraged to explore their interests, build on their strengths, and prepare for success beyond high school.

This *Rising 9th Grade Registration Guide* provides students and families with valuable information about our diverse course offerings, graduation requirements, and policies and procedures. Please read through the guide in its entirety to help you and your family make a smooth transition into high school.

As you plan for your 9th grade year, I encourage you to take the time to thoughtfully consider your course selections. High school is a time to challenge yourself, explore new possibilities, and develop the skills and knowledge you will need for success in college, your career, and life. Our school counselors and administrators are here to support you every step of the way, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or for guidance in planning your academic journey.

I look forward to welcoming you to Kennedy High School and working together to make your high school experience great.

Jason Kline  
Principal, Kennedy High School



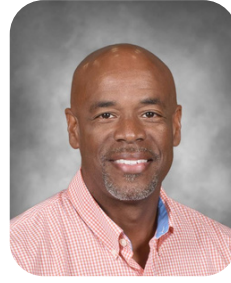
# School Administrators



**JASON KLINE**  
Principal



**SARAH  
REMEROWSKI**  
Assoc. Principal



**ROBERT  
JOHNSON**  
9th Grade Academy  
Assoc. Principal



**SHAWN  
THOMSEN**  
Assoc. Principal - Activities

## MISSION

To cultivate the personal and academic growth of our Kennedy community by ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment that moves us courageously forward towards a 100% graduation rate and college and career readiness.

## VISION

All freshman academy students are accountable, work with integrity and perseverance, while being considerate of the diverse perspectives and needs of others. They are ready to transition into the social, academic, and college and career academies opportunities of grades 10-12.

# Welcome to High School!

To help you transition smoothly into high school, middle and high school counselors and administrators have organized several events this spring. Here are some opportunities for you and your family to learn more about high school and the class registration process.

## High School Counselors Visits

High school counselors will be visiting each middle school to talk to 8th graders about their transition to high school and the course registration process.

SCHOOL	VISIT DATES
Franklin	March 5 & 10
Harding	March 6
McKinley	March 12
Roosevelt	March 12 & 13
Taft	March 11
Wilson	March 14

## High School Student Assembly

All 8th grade students will be attending an assembly at their designated high schools to learn more about high school life including co-curricular options, extracurricular activities and clubs, athletics, and more.

SCHOOL	ASSEMBLY DATES
Jefferson	March 24
Kennedy	March 27
Washington	March 27

## High School Family Night

Each high school will hold an 8th grade family night where students and their families can tour their high school, meet staff, and learn more about the transition from middle school.

SCHOOL	EVENT DATES
Jefferson	March 24
Kennedy	March 25
Washington	March 27

# Policies & Procedures



## Academic Advising

To provide for a wide variety of individual student goals, interests, and abilities, Kennedy High School offers many more courses than it will be possible for you to take during your high school years. Therefore, it is very important that you make your educational plans carefully and keep such plans up-to-date as you progress through high school. An individual student's plan (total credits needed each year) may look different based on the courses taken. Counselors will work with students and parents to analyze student graduation progress.

## Academic Competency Requirements

The school reserves the right to require specific skills courses or activities of students whose Iowa Assessment results or failed classes reveal educational deficiencies.

## Academic Awards

Students can start earning academic awards or medals to wear at graduation beginning their freshman year. These medals include academic numerals, honor roll, math scholar, social studies scholar, valedictorian, and more. A complete list of all awards is available on page 20 of this registration book and on the Kennedy website. Please reach out to our school counselors if you would like more information about the different awards.

## Adding Classes

Course changes or adding classes are available within the 10-day window of each semester starting. Students can add or change classes via a Schedule Change Request Form that can be found on the Kennedy website. Changes must be deemed academically necessary and meet the criteria noted on the form. Students must use their school email address to complete the form. Students may not add new classes after the 10-day window.

## Advanced Placement Courses

The Advanced Placement program is a curriculum sponsored by the College Board which offers standardized courses to high school students that are generally recognized to be equivalent to undergraduate courses in college. Participating colleges grant credit to students who obtain high enough scores on the exams to qualify. Exams are in May, but students sign up for AP exams in the fall. The complete list of available AP courses can be found on the Kennedy website.

## Announcements

School announcements are broadcast via video during the school day and are available on the Kennedy High School website.

## Athletic and Activity Eligibility

The Iowa Athletic Association requires all high school athletes to maintain satisfactory academic progress. A student who receives a final grade of F or U in any subject will serve a sanction in their next sport or activity. Additionally, students must maintain a passing grade in four credits at midterm to maintain eligibility. Further questions can be directed to the Activities Office.

# Policies & Procedures



## Attendance Policy & Start on Time

Attendance is a key factor in success at Kennedy. Students who attend class regularly perform better in class and earn higher grades. Learning is directly related to student participation, attendance, and engagement in class. The interactive part of learning happens in the classroom and is difficult to replicate elsewhere. Kennedy will follow the current district attendance policy set in guidance from the state. Students who are late past the bell ringing will be marked tardy in class. Students who show up to class past 10 minutes will be counted absent. Excusing your student should be directed to the attendance office either via phone call, email, or doctor's note.

## Behavior

Students must follow behavior expectations set in the classroom under the Cougar Commitment Guidelines. Specific behavior rules will be available for viewing in the Student Handbook on the Kennedy website.

## Bus Transportation

Students who live 3 miles or more from Kennedy will be eligible for school bus services. The district's transportation is responsible for setting up routes and will post information in StopFinder in August. If you have questions, please call Transportation directly at 319-558-3286. Transportation changes/requests after the school year begins can be directed to the main office. Please note that any busing questions or requests at the beginning of the year have a longer turnaround time due to the busy time of year. The district makes all final decisions in regards to transportation.

## Calendar

Students will follow an A/B block schedule rotation. This pattern will be every other day, four blocks each day. A copy of the school A/B block calendar can be found on the Kennedy website. Every few weeks, students will have Homeroom where important school information will be shared. Students will be notified of an upcoming Homeroom day via Announcements and Infinite Campus.

## Chromebooks

Students will be given a district issued Chromebook and charger. Students should bring their chromebook to school every day charged and ready to go. Teachers will not have extra chargers available in their classroom for students to use. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have their chromebook and charger for their use. If a student loses their chromebook or charger, replacements can be made with a fee attached. Any questions in regards to students' chromebooks should be directed to Kennedy's Technology Facilitator, Jason Long.

## Clinic

The clinic is open to all students in need daily. If a student needs to take medication at school, a form can be completed for the nurse to distribute at the appropriate time of day. A nurse is available to answer any medical-related questions as they arise.

## Closed Campus

All 9th graders are expected to stay on campus at all times, known as a "closed campus." Freshmen may not leave for lunch and are expected to report to study hall. Parents or guardians may sign a release form for their student to leave during study hall but they are required to leave the building every day during that time. Students who have release must also be passing all classes to remain eligible to leave.

# Policies & Procedures



## Concurrent Enrollment/Dual Enrollment Courses

CRCSD high school students are eligible to enroll in college-level courses through Kirkwood Community College's dual enrollment credit program. Credit earned through this program counts towards your high school diploma and future college degree. This program is free for high school students. Please see the Kennedy webpage, Program of Studies or your school counselor for more information..

## Courseload Requirements

District policy requires all 9th graders to maintain a schedule of 7 courses plus 1 study hall or Directed Studies course. Students can complete a full course load of 8 classes but are not eligible to drop below this threshold without district permission.

## Daily Schedule

Kennedy follows an A/B block rotation schedule every day. There are four blocks a day, with each block being roughly around an hour and a half long leaving ample time for students to complete work in the classroom or in study hall. Lunch is served every day during students' 3rd block class. Passing time is 5 minutes between each block. Start time is 7:50am and dismissal is 2:50pm, per the district calendar.

## Driver's Education

All Driver's Education information is through local community providers at this time. Kirkwood Community College offers evening and summer classes at various locations around the city. StreetSmarts and Right Way Drivers Education are both private providers in the area that are recommended. Other options are available as well. Funding is up to the student/family but many providers offer subsidized costs. Work with the individual provider for assistance.

## Dropping a Course

Students may find themselves in a situation where they may need or want to drop a class. Dropping classes can have an adverse effect on transcripts. Any class dropped in the first 10 days of a semester will not be reflected on a transcript. A class dropped after the 10th day of the semester requires a drop form and a letter grade of W or F will be issued on the transcript, pending approval from district personnel. If students are failing a course, they have until the 45th day to elect to take the course pass/fail without affecting their GPA. Further questions can be answered in the Student Handbook or through your school counselor.

## Electronic Devices/Cell Phones

The school cell phone policy will be available for viewing in the Student Handbook on the Kennedy website. Students are to turn off their phones upon entering the classroom. Teachers may provide a carrier for storage during class. If a parent or guardian needs to get ahold of their student during the day, please contact the main office and the message will be delivered to the student. A district phone is available for student usage outside the attendance office.



# Policies & Procedures



## Fees

Students are annually assessed a “book fee” to cover the cost of services, supplies, materials, and other special programs outlined by the School Board. A fee waiver can be obtained for families that qualify for the district’s Free and Reduced Meal Program and who complete the waiver portion in the Annual Verification on Infinite Campus, filled out yearly. Annual school fees are due at the beginning of the year and can be paid online through Infinite Campus or through the Bookkeeping Office at Kennedy via cash or check.

## Handbook

Students will review the digital School Handbook at the beginning of the year during Homeroom. This Handbook is available on the Kennedy website for students and families to view. All school information can be found in this handbook.

## ID Cards/School Pictures

School pictures will be used for the yearbook and students’ ID cards. Students will be given IDs after school pictures have been taken, either the day of or distributed a few weeks after. Students will need their school ID for school events such as sports or activities, school dances, or to ride the city bus. If a student loses their ID, a replacement can be made in the IMC. School pictures are available for purchase, please reach out to the main office if you have questions.

## Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is a vital tool for tracking grades and attendance for students and parents too via the Parent Portal. Parents that need their user ID and/or passcode to Infinite Campus can reach out to the main office for support. Students can reach out to the Kennedy Tech Facilitator for support as well. Infinite Campus is the tool teachers will use to reach out if/when needed. Please be sure to update your information annually.

## Library IMC

The Library/IMC is available for students between the hours of 7:15am and 3:15pm. Students are able to check out books while it is open. Upperclassmen are able to work in the IMC during their study hall time. Any technology-related questions can be answered in the IMC for students as well.

## Lockers

Lockers are available to all students who would like one. Students are responsible to sign up for one, they are not automatically assigned. A form can be completed on the Kennedy website to request a locker. Gym lockers are also available through the PE teacher. Students are responsible to make sure their lockers are locked. Kennedy and the CRCSD are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

## Lunch & Breakfast

Both breakfast and lunch are served daily at Kennedy. Prices are set by the district and money can be added to your student’s lunch account through the Meal Magic Family Portal on the district website. The district’s Food and Nutrition Department can answer specific questions in regards to dietary needs.

# Policies & Procedures



## Open Enrollment & In-District Permits

Students are required to attend their resident high school based on address, per the district boundaries. If you wish to attend a different school other than your addressed resident school, an application must be submitted via the District website within the enrollment timeframe. Both in-district permits and open enrollment are subjected to an application process and final decisions are made at the district office. Questions should be directed to the district office.

## Orientation

Incoming 9th grade students will have their own Freshmen Orientation a week before school starts. Information about the event will be sent out in August - typically it is half a day in the mornings. Students will receive their schedules and get a chance to walk their schedules while meeting their teachers. Students will also receive a Kennedy t-shirt and will get their picture taken with Joe Photo that is turned into a collage for their senior year.

## Parking

Parking on campus is reserved for staff, juniors, and seniors only and those parking on campus are required to have a parking sticker. Freshmen may apply for their school permit but must have it signed by our School Resource Officer on campus. Parking for freshmen is located at our nearby churches who have opened up their parking lots for our use during the school day. There are fees attached to parking at the church lots. Questions and information on church parking can be obtained from our main office, as well as the Kennedy website. Signup will come out in August. Parking in spots that are not designated to your assigned lot are subject to a parking ticket and a fee.

## Passing Time

Passing time between classes is 5 minutes. In this time, students will have access to their lockers and restrooms, as needed. Students should use this time to get to their next class prepared and on time.

## Repeating a Course

Students who do not successfully pass a core class will need to repeat the class in order to maintain on track for graduation. Core classes include Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Physical Education. Students will be advised to repeat the class failed in person or through alternative options like Credit Recovery. This will be as advised by the school counselor. Please refer to the district's graduation requirements on which classes fall under this requirement.

## Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Option

Students have the option of choosing to take one elective course each semester or one year-long elective course to be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. Students have up to the 45th day of the semester to make this decision. The final grade of an S or a U will not be calculated in the student's GPA. A form must be completed through the school counselor. Core classes are not eligible to be taken pass/fail.

## Schedules

Students' specific schedules will be available for viewing on Infinite Campus in mid-August.

# Policies & Procedures



## School Apparel

Freshmen will receive a Kennedy t-shirt at Freshmen Welcome in August. Other opportunities to purchase Kennedy apparel will be available through our Booster Club fundraisers. These typically run in the fall, winter, and spring and will be announced on the Kennedy website, as well as daily announcements.

## School Supplies

There is not a specific designated list of school supplies at the high school level. Students will be issued a chromebook for their school use. It is recommended that students have a backpack to keep the chromebook in, notebooks, and folders for each class as needed. Students should also have pens and pencils for their classroom usage. Teachers will note if there are specific needs for their classroom in the first few weeks of the semester. The Kennedy Cougar Pantry can assist with any school supplies needs at any time during the school year.

## Staff Contact Information

Should you need to reach out to a teacher or staff member, contact information can be found on Infinite Campus under your student's schedule and teacher listed. Teachers and staff can be reached by email or phone call. Teachers and staff no longer have direct phone number lines, so please call the main office and they will connect you to the correct teacher or staff member. The main office line is 319-558-2251.

## Study Hall

Freshmen are required to have at least 7 classes, with 1 being a study hall, per district guidelines. Study hall is hosted in the cafeteria and is required to be attended, as attendance will be taken daily. Students can use this time to complete their homework or work with a teacher if they need help. Students are required to remain in their seat and work quietly during this time, unless they have a pass to be elsewhere.

## Visitors

All visitors that are coming to Kennedy must sign in at the attendance office between the hours of 7:00am and 3:30pm. As a district security measure, visitors will be required to provide their licenses or identification card that will be scanned via the Raptor system. Visitors are strongly encouraged to reach out to the school first to plan their visit or meeting. Volunteers must complete the CRCSD application annually; the form can be found on the district website.

# Academic & Graduation Requirements



## Graduation Requirements

Graduating from Kennedy High School is an important milestone that requires careful planning and dedication. To earn a diploma, students must complete a minimum of 40 credit hours, following the graduation requirements set by the Cedar Rapids Community School District and the state of Iowa.

Kennedy operates on a semester system, with most courses earning one credit per semester. Some high school credit-bearing courses taken in middle school may also count toward graduation. Our diverse course offerings allow students to explore their interests, challenge themselves academically, and prepare for future college and career opportunities. School counselors will work closely with students and parents to ensure progress toward graduation while allowing flexibility to adapt to individual goals and aspirations.

Subject	Required Credits	Details
English Language Arts	8 Credits (4 years)	LA 9, LA 10, & 4 semesters of upper level ELA choices
Mathematics	6 Credits (3 years)	Including Algebra One, Geometry, and upper level math choices
Science	6 Credits (3 years)	Including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics courses.
Social Studies	6 Credits (3 years)	Including World History, US History, American Government, and Economics
Physical Education	4 Credits	One semester of PE per year <small>*The State of Iowa requires students to complete a CPR course for high school graduation per Iowa Code 281-IAC 12.5(20).</small>
Elective Courses	10 Credits	
World Language	0 Credits	Not required for CRCSD graduation, but is recommended for post-secondary learning

## Program of Studies

To provide for a wide variety of individual student goals, interests, and abilities, Kennedy High School offers many more courses than it will be possible for you to take during your high school years. Therefore, it is very important that you make your educational plans carefully as you progress through high school. Counselors will work with students and parents to analyze student graduation progress. The high school's *Program of Studies Book* includes the list of all available high school courses and is available on the CRCSD District website or by scanning the QR code.





# Course Sequencing

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: 4 YEARS REQUIRED

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11 & 12
Language Arts 9 or Advanced Language Arts 9	Language Arts 10 or AP English Language & Composition	US Humanities & Composition World Humanities & Composition African American Humanities & Composition Perspectives in Literature & Comp AP English Language & Composition AP Literature & Composition Composition I & II

## MATH: 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Sequence Options	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11	Grade 12
Sequence Option 1	Algebra 1 or Advanced Algebra 1	Geometry or Advanced Geometry	Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus AP Pre-Calculus Finite Topics with Statistics AP Statistics Financial Literacy Math
Sequence Option 2	Geometry or Advanced Geometry	Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus AP Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AP Statistics Finite Topics with Statistics Financial Literacy Math
Sequence Option 3	Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus AP Pre-Calculus Ap Statistics	AP Calculus AP Statistics Finite Topics with Statistics	Finite Topics with Statistics Financial Literacy Math

## SCIENCE: 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11	Grade 11 & 12
Biology or Advanced Biology	Chemistry Advanced Chemistry	Physics AP Physics 1	Earth Science AP Environmental Science AP Biology Anatomy and Physiology Forensic Science 1 & 2 AP Chemistry AP Physics 2

# Course Sequencing

## SOCIAL STUDIES: 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11	Grade 12
World History or AP Human Geography	US History or AP US History	American Government AP US Government & Politics AP Comparative Government & Politics	Economics AP Microeconomics AP Macroeconomics

## SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVE COURSES AVAILABLE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African American History</li> <li>• Psychology</li> <li>• Social Psychology</li> <li>• Current World Issues</li> <li>• Philosophy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP World History</li> <li>• AP European History</li> <li>• AP African American Studies</li> <li>• AP Psychology</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION: 4 YEARS REQUIRED

### Grade 9 - 12

Performance PE  
Personal Fitness  
Team Fitness  
Health & Fitness 1 and 2  
Swimming  
Unified PE

# Grading

## Grading Scale

The high school grading system and its numerical equivalents are as follows:

Grading Scale for Non-weighted Courses	
A+	4.33
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
D-	0.67
F	0.00

Grading Scale for Weighted Courses	
A	5.00
A-	4.67
B+	4.33
B	4.00
B-	3.67
C+	3.33
C	3.00
C-	2.67
D+	2.33
D	2.00
D-	1.67
F	0.00

## Weighted Courses

To encourage students to pursue a challenging learning experience, all courses providing students the opportunity to earn college-level credit will be calculated on a 5.0 grading scale. This includes all AP courses, world language courses that do not have an AP option, all Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) courses, and all concurrent enrollment courses taken both at Kirkwood Community College and within CRCSD. These courses are identified in the CRCSD Program of Studies with a “W” for weighted course.

## Grade Point Calculation (GPA)

Grade Point Average (GPA) is a number that represents how well you are doing in your classes. It is calculated by averaging the grades you earn in each subject, using a scale from 0 to 4. On this scale, an A+ is worth 4 points, while an F is worth 0. As explained above, some courses use weighted grades, like Advanced Placement (AP) classes, which can boost your GPA above 4.0 because they are more challenging. Your GPA can go up or down depending on how well you do in your classes each semester. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is considered good, but some top colleges look for students with a GPA above 3.5. Keeping a strong GPA is important because it can affect opportunities like scholarships, college admissions, and even future jobs.

# 9th Grade Elective Course Offerings



For further/more specific course descriptions, please see the district [Program of Studies](#)

COURSE	CREDIT	LENGTH
<p><b>Freshman Seminar</b></p> <p>This course is designed to support freshmen in their transition to high school. Students will experience content learning and develop skills in alignment with the Portrait of a Graduate. Areas of learning include: self-awareness, interpersonal skills, habits for academic success, college and career planning, community engagement, employability skills, and career exploration. This course is strongly encouraged for all 9th grade students.</p>	1 Credit per semester	2 Semesters
<p><b>Art Electives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art 101: introduction to all areas of art, strong foundation for future advanced art</li> <li>• Ceramics 1: building with clay by hand-building and wheel thrown pottery</li> <li>• Digital Art 1: using the computer to create and express art, including Adobe</li> <li>• Drawing 1: develop your drawing from life skills</li> <li>• Painting 1: painting using watercolor and acrylic paint</li> <li>• Sculpture: studying 3D art, sculpting both in real life and using various media</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester each
<p><b>CTE: Business/Computers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Fundamentals: aspects including ownership, management, marketing, finance</li> <li>• Computer Coding I and II: write computer code as you develop your own application</li> <li>• Computer Science: computer programming using Scratch MIT, Alice &amp; other software</li> <li>• Entrepreneurship: explore the process of owning a business</li> <li>• Money Management: employee pay &amp; benefits, filing taxes, budgeting, bank accounts</li> <li>• Personal Finance: savings, investments, credit, housing, insurance, automotive finances</li> <li>• Sales and Marketing: market planning, selling, promotion, market research &amp; branding</li> <li>• Video Game Marketing and Design: promote &amp; market a video game, programming</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester each
<p><b>CTE: Family and Consumer Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Development: infants, toddlers, and preschoolers development</li> <li>• Fashion Design: fashion history, design principles, sketching, and sewing</li> <li>• Interior Design: create function and beauty in your environment</li> <li>• Personal Development: employability skills, communication tools, emotional regulation</li> <li>• School Aged Child Development: children ages 5-12 and development</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester each
<p><b>CTE: Technical Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction I and II: explore the construction industry including building sites</li> <li>• Consumer Auto Mechanics: learning about cars, including purchase, maintenance, repair</li> <li>• Fundamentals of Welding: introduced to cutting through lab work and assignments</li> <li>• Power and Energy (Electric Car): compete as a team in building a car and racing</li> <li>• PLTW- Intro to Engineering*: use 3D modeling software individually and in teams</li> <li>• Woodworking I and II: emphasis on safe use of tools and machines</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester each *2 semester course



# 9th Grade Elective Course Offerings



For further/more specific course descriptions, please see the district [Program of Studies](#)

COURSE	CREDIT	LENGTH
<p><b>English Language Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadcast Journalism: digital video and television production</li> <li>• Creative Writing: writing skills across all genres like poetry, short stories, and essays</li> <li>• Intro to Media- Journalism: learn to interview, report, write, and produce stories</li> <li>• Literary Magazine: student-created literature and art</li> <li>• Speech and Debate: improve your speaking skills through debate and discussion</li> <li>• Stage Craft and Design: technical aspects of theatre - lighting, sound, set construction</li> <li>• Student News Media Journalism: creating the school newspaper, the Torch</li> <li>• Student Yearbook: creating the school yearbook through writing and photography</li> <li>• Theatre Arts and Performance: acting and performance as a group and individually</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester each
<p><b>General Studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PACT Seminar: completion of long-term projects that foster critical thinking</li> <li>• Service Learning and Leadership: Kennedy's student government - volunteering</li> <li>• Study Skills- AP &amp; KCC: brain-based learning, preparation for future AP/KCC classes</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester Each
<p><b>Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Color Guard: audition-based, flags that perform with the marching band</li> <li>• Concert Band: introductory band, build performance skills</li> <li>• Digital Music: create, edit, produce, and engage with music digitally</li> <li>• High School Singers: anybody interested in singing in the school chorus</li> <li>• Marching Band*: performance band, competition-based</li> <li>• Music Workshop: explore musical interests, composition, instruments, song writing</li> <li>• Show Choir*: audition required, vocal production, choreography, &amp; performance</li> <li>• String Orchestra*: introductory orchestra, build performance skills</li> <li>• AP Music Theory: builds skills in music theory, melody, harmony, form, and composition.</li> <li>• Jazz Band: Ensemble exploring diverse jazz techniques and styles.</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester each  *2 semester course
<p><b>Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Botany: the study of plants, including growing and caring for them</li> <li>• Earth Science: geology, astronomy, and climate history</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester
<p><b>Social Studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African American History: drawing connections between past and present issues</li> <li>• Current World Issues: analyzing what is going on in the current global world</li> <li>• Philosophy: the study of the purpose of life, reasoning behind logic and discipline</li> <li>• Psychology: factors influencing our choices and behavior, why we do what we do</li> <li>• Social Psychology: values, beliefs, norms, and institutions of a society</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	1 Semester each
<p><b>World Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French I or II</li> <li>• German I or II</li> <li>• Japanese I or II</li> <li>• Spanish I or II</li> </ul>	1 Credit per semester	2 Semesters

# Additional Academic Opportunities



## IowaBIG

Iowa BIG is an innovative high school program open to any 10-12 enrolled CRCSD high school students. Students may select both core and/or elective courses through BIG. Students tap into their own passions and interests to take on community, business, or student-pitched projects where they learn and apply the Iowa Core standards tied to their coursework. Iowa BIG's hands-on, highly-contextualized learning model helps students become socially connected to their community and learn more about careers and businesses. Students enrolled in BIG earn accredited course credits like any other high school course. BIG has both AM and PM sessions available for students and transportation can be provided. More information on Iowa BIG can be found on their website - [Iowa BIG](#). Specific course options can also be found in the district's [Program of Studies](#).



## Kirkwood Classes

Kirkwood partners with local area high school districts, including the CRCSD, to prepare students to learn essential skills and earn college credit through a variety of concurrent enrollment options. Credits earned through these partnerships count towards a student's high school diploma AND their future college degree - all at NO COST to the student or family. The Career Academy programs or majors are specialized, supportive learning environments for high school students, designed around a college and career theme. They prepare students for post-secondary education and careers by offering a college-preparatory curriculum focused on a specific career theme, and often feature partnerships with employers, community organizations, and local colleges, providing access to resources and experiential learning opportunities. Academies consist of three or more courses in a career-focused series, where students learn alongside peers with similar career interests. Some courses are taught in the building at Kennedy, while other academy courses are taught at the Linn Regional Center in Hiawatha. Transportation can be provided. Specific Kirkwood course/academy options can be found in the district's [Program of Studies](#), as well as [Kirkwood's website](#).



# Co-curricular Activities



## Band

Kennedy High School's band program offers a balanced curriculum providing opportunities at all stages of musical development. There are three concert bands, two jazz bands, and a marching band. Incoming freshman have a few scheduling options:

- First Semester: Marching band/color guard or fall concert band (freshman only)
- Second Semester: Wind symphony, symphonic band, or concert band
- Jazz band

## Orchestra

Orchestra is a year-long class. There are two orchestra ensembles for students to participate in - String Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra. Most freshmen will start in String Orchestra.

## Choral Music

The Kennedy High School choral department is committed to providing all interested students with a positive, growth-focused singing experience. Choir members learn about vocal production, music theory, and ensemble singing. Students can choose to join a choir, jazz vocal ensemble, or show choir through an audition process.

## Debate

The Debate Team helps students develop critical thinking, public speaking, and argumentation skills by researching and debating current issues. The debate team trains and participants compete against other teams across the country at in person and online tournaments.

## Drama/Theatre

Students bring stories to life through multiple stage productions each year, participating as performers, musicians in the pit orchestra, or behind the scenes in the tech theater program. Typically there are three productions each year - fall, winter, and spring, including one Playtime Poppy performance.

## Speech Team

The Speech Team offers two seasons: Large Group Speech, where students perform together in events like ensemble acting and group improv, and Individual Speech, where they showcase solo talents. Students rehearse and compete in contests, performing for peers and judges in various categories.

## Sports

Kennedy High School has 24 athletic teams that students can choose from. Students must complete the permission to practice steps that can be found on the Kennedy website. Students must maintain eligibility through the CRCSD Good Conduct Policy, as well as the guidelines set by the state in regards to grades. Sports include - baseball, bowling, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, dance team, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, and wrestling.

# Extracurricular Activities & Clubs



Find your passion and get involved. If you have an idea for a club, all you need to do is find a staff member to sponsor your club and submit an application. Kennedy hosts a Club Fair every fall to advertise the following--

- Academic Decathlon
- Amnesty Club
- Best Buddies
- Bible Study
- Biology Club
- Black Student Union
- Chess Club
- Chinese Club
- Cougar Bandana
- Cougar Electric Car
- Dungeons and Dragons Club
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- Gay-Straight Alliance
- Japanese Club
- Kennedy eSports
- Key Club
- Kinder Kennedy
- Magic the Gathering
- Math Club
- Model UN
- Ping Pong Club
- Robotics Team (CougarBots)
- Speech Team
- Speech and Debate Team
- Squishmellow Club
- Students Against Human Trafficking
- Trap Club



# Awards and Honors

At Kennedy High School, we want to recognize and reinforce the hard work and accomplishments of our students. Starting in 9th grade, students can start earning academic awards or medals to showcase their hard work and can be worn at graduation. These medals include academic numerals, honor roll, math scholar, social studies scholar, valedictorian, and more. Medals will be given out typically at our Senior Awards Night in the spring, right before graduation. Students are encouraged to wear their medals and cords earned at graduation. A complete list of all awards is available in the student handbook or reach out to the main office for more information.

- Academic Numeral: Earn a minimum GPA of 3.33 for both semesters of grade 9.
- Academic Letter: Earn a minimum GPA of 3.33 for any two consecutive semesters during grades 10-12.
- Academic Pin: Once a student earns an academic letter, they're eligible for an academic pin. To earn this, a student must achieve two additional consecutive semesters with a GPA of 3.33 or higher.
- Outstanding Four-Year Math Scholar: Complete four years of math courses.
- Outstanding Four-Year Science Scholar: Complete four years of science courses.
- Outstanding Four-Year World Language Scholar: Complete four years of a single world language.
- Outstanding Four-Year Social Studies Scholar: Complete four years of Social Studies courses.
- Credit Club: Earn 54 semester credit hours over the course of four years.
- AP Scholar: Scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.
- AP Scholar with Honor: Average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams.
- AP Scholar with Distinction: Average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.
- AP Capstone Medallion: granted to seniors who take both AP Seminar and AP Research.
- Anna Purna Ghosh Medallion: granted to seniors who take three consecutive years of exams and earn at least four scores of 4 or higher.
- Four Years of AP Testing Award: Take at least one AP exam each of four years.
- The Academic Honors Program: Earn a minimum of 42 total credits, 30 of which are from core subjects (language arts, math, science, social studies, and world language), and maintains a minimum 3.0 GPA in core subject classes.
- The Academic Honors Program With Distinction: Earn a minimum of 48 total credits, 34 of which are from core subjects, (language arts, math, science, social studies, and world language), and maintains a minimum 3.33 GPA in core subject classes.
- Valedictorian Scholar Award: Cumulative GPA of 4.165 or above.
- Salutatorian: Cumulative GPA between 4.0 and 4.164.
- Graduate with Distinction: Cumulative GPA between 3.815 and 3.999.

# Parent/Guardian Organizations

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A variety of groups are available at Kennedy for parents who want to get involved in organized support of students and their activities. We encourage parents to be active participants in their students' education. Parent participation provides insight into the workings of the school and the activities, demonstrates a positive commitment to your student and the school, and enhances our school community by adding even more caring adults to our facility. Contact your coach or director to find out how you can be involved. Some of our support groups include:

## **Band**

Kennedy Band Parents, Inc. is a group made up of parents of all band students who support the band program through fundraising, volunteering, and adding to the program those things the school district does not fund. The group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month - 7:00 pm - Band Room. If you are interested, email [Kennedybandparents@gmail.com](mailto:Kennedybandparents@gmail.com) for more information.

## **Boosters/Athletic Club**

The Athletic Booster Club provides financial and volunteer support for student athletes. Meetings are the 4th Monday of each month - 6:30 pm - IMC. Contact Sarah Holstrom at [sarahholstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahholstrom@yahoo.com)

## **Choral League**

Kennedy Choral League is made up of parents and alumni to support and assist the choral music program and choral directors at Kennedy for the good and further the development of the choral music programs. If you would like to volunteer, donate, or participate in Kennedy Choral League activities, please contact Mr. Ziegler at [sziegler@crschools.us](mailto:sziegler@crschools.us) for more information.

## **Orchestra**

The Orchestra department welcomes any parent who would like to get involved and support the program. Meetings are the 1st Monday of each month - 6:30 pm. Contact Kelly Faughn at [Kelly.faughn@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.faughn@gmail.com) for information.

# Plan Your Future at Kennedy High School!



## 9th Grade Schedule Planning Worksheet

SEMESTER 1
Language Arts: .....
Math: .....
Science: .....
Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....
Elective: .....
Elective: .....

SEMESTER 2
Language Arts: .....
Math: .....
Science: .....
Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....
Elective: .....
Elective: .....

**Total Credits:** .....

**Total Credits:** .....

# Plan Your Future at Kennedy High School!



## 10th Grade Schedule Planning Worksheet

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Language Arts: .....	Language Arts: .....
Math: .....	Math: .....
Science: .....	Science: .....
Social Studies: .....	Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....	PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....

## 11th Grade Schedule Planning Worksheet

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Language Arts: .....	Language Arts: .....
Math: .....	Math: .....
Science: .....	Science: .....
Social Studies: .....	Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....	PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....

# Plan Your Future at Kennedy High School!



## 12th Grade Schedule Planning Worksheet

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Language Arts: .....	Language Arts: .....
Math: .....	Math: .....
Science: .....	Science: .....
Social Studies: .....	Social Studies: .....
PE or Elective: .....	PE or Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....
Elective: .....	Elective: .....

### NOTES: