

P.R.I.D.E

Essential School-Wide Behaviors

On the first day of school this year, the entire school focused on building community and a culture based on 5 fundamentals. Those 5 Fundamentals are being taught to all of our students during the entire month of September. Before coming for *Maze Day*, all students and parents signed the *Titan Compact* which was a blueprint for what this movement entails. The idea is that all students, staff, and community show their **PRIDE** through their actions and language. These are the pillars of every successful culture; and at Kennedy, we are building a culture of **PRIDE**.

Culture *noun*

The way of life of a particular people, especially shown in their ordinary behavior and habits, their attitudes toward each other, their language, art, and moral beliefs

School-Wide Strategies

Prepared for Learning: We agree to be on time and present for learning, This means physically and mentally. We are free of **devices** that become barriers to learning.

Respect for All: We will be mindful of our actions and practice self-regulation. We will develop empathy to understand and help others.

Impact: How will my actions today *impact* myself, classmates, others? All of my daily choices have consequences (positive and negative)

Disciplined: Having discipline means that we don't take shortcuts. We do everything to the best of our ability (especially when nobody is watching). We will set goals and hold ourselves accountable for reaching these goals. We can learn to develop *grit*.

Explore: We are willing to take calculated risks and think outside the box to solve problems. We will ask ourselves, "What is my plus?" This means I have a plan for after high school and I know how I will add to my community.

Back to School Night

Welcome Message from Mr. Velez:

On behalf of John F. Kennedy High School, I would like to thank each and every one of you for attending tonight.

Back to School Night is a great opportunity for both the school and for parents. Please take in as much of this experience as you can tonight. I am happy that you will all have the opportunity to interact with this staff and see what an average day looks like for your student. Things have changed quite a bit in the years since we were all in high school. Every piece of your student's education that is not a mystery is a piece that you can help them to build capacity and achieve success.

In the coming months, we would like you all to become familiar with the commitment teachers have made to expose all students to rigorous coursework, as well as help students to think and process information at high levels. If you understand the foundation which we have set, you can be actively involved in helping your student achieve success. As a Kennedy parent, we ask that you help us to **Build Trust, Build Capacity, and Achieve Success**. Your presence at school functions such as Back to School Night, Parent Conferences, and other events helps to strengthen this community and validates the hard work that your students have done here.

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

The JFK staff has worked collaboratively to lay the foundation for Professional Learning Communities. Each department is in the process of developing common standards, common assessments, and intervention strategies to assist students before they fail. This has helped to bring JFK to the forefront in a true community of learning. At the core of this new philosophy are the Four Essential Questions that drive our work here at JFK:

1. What do we expect students to learn?

The teachers are establishing 7-10 essential standards for each course which identify what students *need to know* in order to be successful at the next level. This has been done through many hours of discussion and debate by each department.

2. How do we know when each student has learned it?

The staff is in the process of creating common assessments (tests) and ways to truly check for understanding during units in order to ensure our students are learning, and more importantly, how to identify students who need intervention and follow up on material and concepts *before* they fail. Our staff has set the goal of getting through these first two steps this year with the support of ongoing professional development.

3. **How will we respond when some students do not learn it?** The intervention piece is an integral part of the PLC process. The Titan staff has agreed that the best approach to intervention is immediate support and intervention *during the school day*. This is a monumental task that our staff is working towards developing toward the end of this school year and throughout next school year. In short, our staff is committed to serving our students in a way that helps them to succeed with immediate and very calculated support, without students having to come before and after school. This concept is referred to by staff as RTI (Response To Intervention)

4. **How will we respond when some already know it?** It is just as important for our staff to develop *enrichment* opportunities that further challenge our students when they understand concepts. Every lesson and activity will have components attached which will increase levels of depth and rigor as students begin to master concepts.

During the last semester of the 2017-2018 school year, the JFK staff developed a prototype model to address questions 3 and 4 (above). During the 6 weeks of *Titan Up* Time, there were a total of 1,007 sessions offered. A survey taken in June, 2018 showed that 85% of students and staff wished to continue this format to provide Intervention and Enrichment on a daily basis for JFK Students.



In April of 2018, the staff of Kennedy High School rolled out a prototype of a school-wide effort for students to receive support and Intervention within the School Day. *Titan Up* time is offered every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Teachers will identify students for Tier 2 Intervention sessions that last 28 minutes each day. Students are identified through data collected by assessments, class work, and through checking for understanding. These sessions provide assistance to students *before* they fail. All students are required to attend *Titan Up* each day. Students who are identified by teachers are required to attend these intervention sessions.

Students who are not identified for intervention are required to sign up for Enrichment or Open sessions. These are sessions designed to educate students on academic topics, interest-based activities, and health / wellness opportunities. This year, *Titan Up* time will begin on October 1, 2018, and will continue throughout the school year as a pilot program.

Titan Up Time is ran through a web-based scheduling system called *Flex Time Manager*. All students receive logins and training for signing up for sessions.