

**JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH  
SCHOOL BELLMORE, NEW YORK**



**NINTH GRADE  
PARENT ORIENTATION  
PROGRAM  
CLASS OF 2026**

**BELLMORE-MERRICK  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL  
3000 BELLMORE AVE, BELLMORE, NEW YORK 11710  
PHONE / 516 992-1400 FAX / 516 785-7198**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Gerard Owenburg  
*Principal*

Michael Harrington  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Vincent Pisano  
Jeff Cronk  
Dan Jantzen  
*Assistant Principals*

Dear Parents:

Welcome parents of the students who are members of the Class of 2026! The purpose of tonight's program is to provide you with an overview of your child's high school years at Kennedy. The agenda includes graduation requirements, course selection, timelines for testing and post secondary planning. Information on clubs and activities will also be discussed.

During the evening, you will have the opportunity to hear from the entire school counseling staff and ask questions. Please keep this guidebook as a handy reference to use throughout the year as it contains important information and resources for you and your child.

Enjoy the evening!

Sincerely,



Vincent Pisano  
Assistant Principal

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## ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNSELOR

The following functions of the school counselor are developmental and impact on all grade levels:

- **Academic Improvement and Planning:** includes the selection of a plan of study, placement into appropriate courses and programs, attendance improvement, and developing study skills as well as peace-making strategies, and promoting prejudice reduction and compassion.
- **Personal/Social Growth:** includes counseling focused on building self-esteem, communication skills, decision-making and relationship skills, as well as promoting peace-making strategies, prejudice-reduction and compassion.
- **Crisis Intervention:** includes counseling students in crisis and providing referrals necessary.
- **Transitional Services:** orients students as they move from grade to grade, as well as from school building to school building, to provide a comfortable and success-oriented learning environment.
- **Parent Support:** assists parents in understanding the full complement of educational services, which may be available to help their students reach their goals and maximize their potential.
- **Career/Life Planning:** increases students' awareness of the career and educational planning process and of individual careers themselves while instilling in students the values and attitudes necessary for becoming successful contributors to their families and to society.
- **Consultation:** includes serving as a reference and resource regarding student and school issues for the school's Pupil Personnel Services Team (psychologists, social workers, teachers, nurses, administrators) and the community, as well as for local state agencies, mental health offices/clinics, and other professionals designated by parents/guardians and/or the school district.

## EXTRA HELP

EXTRA-HELP SCHEDULE: Extra help sessions will be available to students in various formats and should be coordinated with the teacher. Sessions may be virtual either before or after school, while in person sessions will be solely after school.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: Students are eligible for election to the National Honor Society in the spring of their junior year. Qualifications are scholarship (overall unweighted average of 87.5% or higher), character, leadership, and service to the school. Students have a second opportunity to qualify in the fall of their senior year. An unweighted average of 87.5% is needed at that time, as well. Students must show considerable involvement in school organizations to be elected to National Honor Society.

The Kennedy Counseling Center website includes information regarding the school, upcoming events and guidance programs. Parents can access up to date information on programs and events, in addition to finding helpful and important links for college and career planning.

[https://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us/schools/jfkhs\\_guidance](https://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us/schools/jfkhs_guidance)



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses	Regents Diploma	Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation
Art or Music	1 Unit	1 Unit
Electives	3 ½ Units	1 ½ Units
English	4 Units	4 Units
Health	½ Unit	½ Unit
Mathematics	3 Units	3 Units
Physical Education	2 Units	2 Units
Science	3 Units	3 Units
Social Studies	4 Units	4 Units
World Languages	1 Unit	3 Units
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 Units</b>	<b>22 Units</b>

## REQUIRED EXAMS

***Students MUST earn a score of 65 or above in the following required exams:***

(Students with disabilities should contact their school counselor for safety net, pathways, and other diploma options)

Regents Diploma <sup>2</sup>	Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation
English Language Arts Regents	English Language Arts Regents
Any one Math Regents	All three Math Regents Exams
Global History Regents	Global History Regents
U.S. History Regents	U.S. History Regents
Any one Science Regents	Two Regents in Science (Must include one in Life Sciences – generally Living Environment – and one in Physical Sciences)
World Language <sup>1</sup>	World Language <sup>1</sup>
World Language Checkpoint A Exam	World Language Checkpoint B Exam
Students averaging 90% or better on required Regents examinations will earn a <b><i>Regents Diploma with Honors.</i></b>	Students averaging 90% or better on all examinations required for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation will earn a <b><i>Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors.</i></b>

<sup>1</sup> Students identified as having a handicapping condition may be exempt from these requirements if a student's IEP states that such requirements are not appropriate. Students completing a five-unit sequence in the Arts (visual arts, music, dance, theater) or Career and Technological Education may also be exempt.

<sup>2</sup> *Pathways to Graduation – “4 + 1” Regents Diploma Option:* Effective January 2015, students will be allowed to substitute one of the two Social Studies Regents exams with a number of different Career and Technical Education (CTE) assessments or an additional Regents exam in either math or science, or the World Language Checkpoint B exam.

Students may satisfy testing requirements with SAT Tests or Advanced Placement exams. Please see your child's school counselor for additional information.

***The best way to ensure that your son or daughter meets all graduation requirements is to speak with your child's school counselor. The school counselor is the best source for reviewing changing graduation requirements and discussing the various options for meeting those requirements.***

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL  
DIRECTORY OF EXTRACURRICULAR STUDENT ACTIVITIES - 2022-2023

	<u>DAY/TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ADVISOR</u>
Animal Advocates	Wednesday @ 2:45	324	Ms. Andree
Art Club	Thursday @ 2:45	151	Ms. Ritchie
Athletes Helping Athletes (AHA)	TBA	TBD	Ms. DeFilippo
C.H.A.M.P. (Culinary Hospitality Applied Management Program)	As Needed	137	Mr. DiGiovanni / Ms. Ober
Chamber Orchestra	Thursday	142	Ms. Kenyon
Choreography	As Needed	Auditorium	Ms. Schiavetta
Cougar Crier (School Newspaper)	Thursday @ 2:45	209	Mr. Seidman / Dr. Urban
Culture Club	Monday @ 2:45	220	Ms. Fiorentino
Debate Club	Select Tuesdays	GI Room	TBD
Drama Club	Daily @ 2:45 Sat.- 9AM to 3:30 (Sept. to the end of March)	Courtyard/Auditorium	Mr. Sheffield
Esports	TBD	TBD	Mr. Alford
FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the	GI Room	Ms. Rojas
Stock Market / FBLA Committee **Committee meetings meet alternating Wednesdays opposite Stock Market game.	Month / Stock Market Game Meets Alternate Wednesdays 2:45pm	GI Room	
G.S.A. Club (Gay Straight Alliance)	Friday	238	Mr. Reed
Honor Society	As Needed		Ms. Keele / Ms. Ober
H.O.P.E. (Help Our Planet Earth)	Thursday @ 2:45	302	Ms. Norris / Ms. Sullivan
Jazz Ensemble/Studio Ensemble (By Audition Only)	Friday	145	Mr. Avellaneda
Key Club	Select Tuesdays @ 2:45	GI Room	Ms. Chilton
Magnum Opus (Literary Magazine)	Wednesday	219	Ms. DiGennaro
Math Team (Nassau County Math Competition Dates: TBA)	Day / Time: Monday & Tuesdays as needed / 2:45pm)	324	Mr. Ma
Mock Trial	Thursday @ 2:45	GI Room	Mr. Gerakinis / Ms. Theodorous
One World	Last Tuesday of Month	TBD	Mr. Owenburg
Robotics Club	Thursday	Innov Lab/200 or 203	Ms. Ocampo / Ms. Femminella
SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)	Monday @ 2:45	Room 126	Ms. Levesque
Science Club	Friday @ 2:45	331	Mr. Lella
Student Government	Mon: Executive Board Wed: Senate/GA	329	Mr. Seidman
Variety Choir	Wednesday 2:45-4:00	142	Ms. Shapiro
Yearbook	Mon, Wed & Thurs	Library	Mr. Dell'Olio
YOGA Club	Wednesday	TBD	Ms. Sullivan
*****			
Freshman Class	Thursdays @ 2:45	230	Ms. Faulkner
Sophomore Class	Thursday @ 2:45	209	Ms. Leitzel / Ms. Longo
Junior Class	Thursday @ 2:45	227	Ms. Scherer
Senior Class	Wednesdays	328	Ms. Rojas

## **GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District provides the opportunity for students to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Staff members encourage students to cultivate their interests, demonstrate their skills, acquire new skills, and develop leadership potential. Since participation in these voluntary activities is both desirable and meritorious, students, as representatives of the school, must maintain an acceptable level of academic performance and display appropriate behavior and good citizenship in and out of the classroom. Students must be in school by Period 4 in order to participate in any extra-curricular activity. In addition, any student suspended, in school or out of school, is not allowed to participate in the after-school program for the duration of the suspension. Any alcohol/drug related suspension will lead to dismissal from a sports team and/or the equivalent suspension from an extra-curricular activity. Additionally, students must be in good standing as per the District Eligibility Policy for Extracurricular, Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Activities.

The following lists of school activities are considered when students apply for the National Honor Society:

Intramural activities are offered each season based on student interest; these include such activities as basketball and weight training.

### **ATHLETICS**

#### **FALL WINTER SPRING**

Soccer, Boys-V/JV Wrestling-V/JV Baseball, Boys-V/JV Soccer, Girls-V/JV Basketball, Boys-V/JV Softball, Girls-V/JV Football-V/JV Basketball, Girls-V/JV Lacrosse, Boys-V/JV X-Country, Boys Winter Track, Boys/Girls Lacrosse, Girls-V/JV X-Country, Girls Cheerleading-V/JV Track, Boys/Girls Tennis, Girls Kickline Tennis, Boys Badminton, Boys \*Bowling, Boys/Girls Golf, Boys/Girls Volleyball, Girls-V/JV \*Hockey Badminton, Girls Volleyball, Boys-V/JV \*Rifle Cheerleading-V/JV \*Swimming, Boys Kickline \*Swimming, Girls

\*Indicates District Team

Intramural activities are offered each season based on student interest; these include such activities as basketball and weight training.



## Honor Society Requirements

- Minimum of 87.5 Unweighted Cumulative GPA
- At least 2 Sports, Clubs or Activities per year
- Moral and Upstanding Student



## **NINTH GRADE TIME LINE**

The central focus of ninth grade, from the guidance viewpoint, is to facilitate the transition from Middle School to High School.

### **September**

Back to School Night: Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and counselors.

Keep an eye on Guidance website for news and updates. Follow us on Twitter @JFK Guidance

Permanent record begins in earnest; all of this year's grades appear on permanent high school transcript.

Ninth Grade Parent Evening Program conducted.

Monthly Counseling Center Newsletter provides important information and updates.

### **October**

Check academic progress available on line through the Parent Portal.

Ninth grade group guidance meetings conducted in school to help facilitate transitional period.

### **November**

School counselors will continue to meet with students individually to review goals.

First quarter report cards are available on line through the Parent Portal.

Parent-Teacher conference nights. Parents are able to meet individually with teachers to discuss their child's progress.

### **December**

"Catalog of Courses" is posted on-line and made available in school in preparation for scheduling of courses for the following school year.

Counselors meet with students in groups to discuss preliminary choices for programming the following school year.

Check academic progress available on line through the Parent Portal.

### **January/February**

Course selection for tenth grade is reviewed in small groups and individually with the student's school counselor.

Parents receive course selection sheets for their signature and return to the school counselor.

School counselors continue to meet with students individually to review goals. Second quarter report cards are available on line through the Parent Portal

### **March**

Tenth grade course selection verification is posted to portal; parents review and contact the school counselor if changes are necessary.

Check academic progress available on line through the Parent Portal.

## **April**

Informal follow-up meetings are held to make any necessary adjustments to 10<sup>th</sup> grade course selection.

School counselors continue to meet with students individually to review goals.

Third quarter report cards are available on line through the Parent Portal.

## **May**

Check academic progress available on line through the Parent Portal.

Final 10th grade course selection verification is posted to portal; parents review and contact the school if changes are necessary.

## **June**

School counselors contact families as needed regarding course failures and summer school registration.

Fourth quarter report cards are available on line through the Parent Portal.

## **TENTH GRADE TIME LINE**

### **September**

Back-to-School Night: Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and counselors.

Monthly Counseling Center Newsletter provides important information and updates.

### **October**

Sophomores who are taking PSAT register online through Rank One JFK School Store; if you are unsure about taking this exam as a sophomore, discuss this opportunity with your counselor as soon as possible.

PSAT is administered.

Check academic progress available on line through the Parent Portal.

### **November**

School counselors will continue to meet with students individually to review goals.

First quarter report cards are available on line through the Parent Portal.

Parent-Teacher conference nights: Parents are able to meet individually with teachers to discuss their child's progress.

### **December**

"Catalog of Courses" is posted on-line and made available in school in preparation for scheduling of courses for the following school year.

Counselors meet with students in groups to discuss preliminary choices for programming the following school year.

Check academic progress available on line through the Parent Portal.

### **January**

Administration of Career Interest Inventory/Introduction to NAVIANCE to introduce students to how their interests suit potential careers.

Course selection for tenth grade is reviewed in small groups and individually with the student's school counselor.

Parents receive course selection sheets for their signature and return to the school counselor.

BOCES and Nassau Tech programs are reviewed by potential career training students.

Second quarter report cards are available on line through the Parent Portal.

### **February**

Group Guidance is conducted to review Career Inventories' results with students, complete course selection process, and explain career resources available to students.

Students considering BOCES visit sites/BOCES applications due

### **March**

Check academic progress on line through the Parent Portal.

Eleventh grade course selection is posted to portal; parents review and contact the school counselor if changes are necessary

## **April**

Third quarter Report Cards are available on line through the Parent Portal.  
BOCES applications available to students.

## **May**

Check academic progress available on line through the Parent Portal.

## **June**

Summer School registration.  
Counselors contact students who failed classes.

**JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL  
BELLMORE, NEW YORK  
(516)992-1420**

**PRINCIPAL: Mr. Gerard Owenburg 992-1410**

**ASST. PRINCIPAL/COUNSELING CENTER:**

**Mr. Vincent Pisano 992-1406**

**ASST. PRINCIPAL/GRADE 9 & 11 ADMINISTRATOR:**

**Mr. Jeff Cronk 992-1402**

**SCHOOL COUNSELORS:**

**Ms. Jessica Miller 992-1464**

**Mr. Matthew Grasso 992-1422**

**Ms. Keely Coco 992-1423**

**Mr. Frank Sansanelli 992-1429**

**Ms. Elissa Germaine 992-1421**

**Ms. Courtney Waller 992-1447**

**SOCIAL WORKER: Mr. Eric Maresca 992-1424**

**PSYCHOLOGIST:**

**Dr. Allison Boyle 992-1425**

**Dr. Danielle Schulman 992-1434**

**TEMPO SOCIAL WORKER: Ashley Grif 992-1426**

**ATTENDANCE DEAN: Mrs. Teresa Negron 992-1413**

**SCHOOL NURSE: Ms. Melanie Caplin & Ms. Rosemary DeVito 992-1460**