

Dear KES Families,

We hope you are all well and that your family has enjoyed some quality time together this summer. The cyclical nature of the school year brings us renewed hope and energy. We will continue our focus on student engagement and creating a welcoming, safe and supportive learning environment for all of our students. We look forward to seeing all our students in September.

Our first full day of in-person learning with all K-5 students at KES is Thursday, September 9.

We sent out communications regarding two events prior to the full return of students:

Kindergarten Visitation: Thursday, September 2 at 1:45 pm at KES

New Family Orientation Grades 1-5: Thursday, September 2 at 2:45 pm at KES

**If this information is relevant to your family and you did not receive a communication, please contact Maria Horton in the office at 763-7700 or email her at mhorton@klschools.org.*

Class Placement: During the week of August 30, we will post the name of your child's teacher on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. You will receive an email communication asking you to check your account when the information becomes available.

Our grade level teams this year are as follows:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Carini, Ms. McGrath and new to KES, Ms. Corrigan

1st Grade: Mrs. Couto, Mrs. McCormick and Mrs. Wayland

2nd Grade: Mrs. Buckley, Ms. Cambareri, Mrs. Conwell and new to the grade, Ms. Rutigliano

3rd Grade: Mr. Jettelson, Mrs. Patwell and Ms. Wolken

4th Grade: Mrs. Cantor, Mrs. Jackson and Ms. Parkhurst

5th Grade: Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Garofolo and Ms. Patterson

*You will find a complete list of faculty and staff in the **KES Family Handbook 2021-22** which will be uploaded to our school website later next week.*

We are grateful to all our faculty and staff who are busy preparing for the new school year.

Health and Safety Guidelines

- **Daily Screeners:** CDC and NYSED no longer recommend daily health questionnaires so it will not be a requirement of daily attendance. However, we ask that you check your child/ren daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
- **Student Health:** It is most important that you keep your child/ren home if they are sick. The District will be sending regular reminders about the symptoms and reasons that would cause a child to stay home. In addition, please immediately contact our School Nurse, Sallyann Rozsa, in the event that you learn your child is COVID positive. She can be reached at srozsa@klschools.org and 763-7706.

- **Masks:** Please be sure your child wears a mask to school each day as masks are required for all students and staff when indoors and on school buses. Please talk to your child about the importance of wearing masks and find opportunities for them to practice wearing a mask prior to the start of school. Also, please pack an extra mask for your child in a plastic baggie. Students may store their masks in the plastic baggie during indoor mask breaks as well as snack and lunch. If your child needs an extra mask while in school, we will provide it to him/her. As per the guidance, masks will be optional outdoors.
- **Physical Distancing:** CDC and NYSED recommend *at least 3 feet* of physical distance between students in classrooms, however, desks do not need to all be facing in the same direction. This will allow for some flexibility in creating a collaborative learning environment conducive to whole class discussions, small group instruction and student partnerships. Physical distancing is no longer required on school buses. Though not required, we will make every effort to increase the distance between students at indoor lunch and at other times when masks must be removed. Language about increased distance (6 feet) for certain activities such as music and PE has been removed from the guidance. However, we will make every effort to increase the distance during such activities. We will continue to teach students how to properly distance, especially during transitions in the classroom. Seating charts will be maintained on buses and in other indoor locations when necessary (for the purpose of contact tracing).
- **Handwashing and Handsanitizing:** We will continue to implement handwashing and hand sanitizing routines throughout the school day.
- **Lunch:** Families may pre-order FREE, bagged school lunches each Sunday for the following week. More information about how to pre-order will be sent to you in the near future. Students will eat lunch outside together as a class whenever the weather permits. For indoor lunch periods, students will be assigned to a classroom or the cafeteria based on available space and supervision, and we will make every effort to maintain 6 feet distancing during this time.
- **Recess/Movement:** Students will go outside daily for recess, weather permitting. Masks are optional during this time. Children will have the opportunity to play with their peers from across the grade level on the playground.
- **Cohorts:** Students will remain with their class throughout the day (with the exception of recess when cohorts may mix). Classes will travel to the art, music and library classrooms as well as to PE (which will be held outdoors unless weather does not permit) for instruction in these special area classes. All teachers will continue to be encouraged to take students outside for learning experiences when appropriate.
- **Visitors:** Consistent with CDC guidance, KLSD will limit non-essential visitors inside our buildings when the year begins. In general, parents should assume they will not be entering our buildings. We will be making limited exceptions, however, as we recognize there are times when individuals or small groups of visitors can be essential. We will also look to accommodate visitors outdoors, when possible. Our visitor guidance may evolve through the year and particularly if/when conditions change.

- **Other Mitigation Strategies:** Cleaning will occur daily. All ventilation continues to be monitored and serviced so that it is working to its highest specification as designed. Appropriate PPE will continue to be available to all students and staff.
- **School and Family Conversations:** We will be talking to your child about all of our safety measures and we ask that you do the same. Your comforting and supportive words and explanations will only help your child better understand the importance and follow these guidelines.

School Hours, Arrival and Dismissal

School hours are 9:15 am – 3:40 pm. We will start the year with staggered drop-off and pick-up times. We will monitor the traffic patterns and bus-ridership and adjust times accordingly. It would be very helpful if all families completed [this arrival/dismissal survey](#) to inform us of how you *anticipate* your child/ren will be getting to and from school.

Drop-off is in the driveway between 9:15 - 9:25 AM. (Buses unload between 9:05-9:15 AM)

- Students should be wearing a mask and have their backpack (and water bottles, etc.) ready in order to swiftly exit the car *curbside* at the designated location.
- Parents/guardians are not permitted to exit the car in the driveway during drop-off.
- Staff members will be available to assist.

Please practice with your young child/ren the process of unbuckling, handling a backpack and exiting the car. Additionally, consider placement of car seats, boosters, etc. for the most effective way for your child to exit curbside at drop-off (and enter from curbside at pick-up). Thank you in advance with helping to keep the traffic flow moving smoothly and safely.

Pick-up is in the driveway between 3:10-3:30 PM. (Buses will load between 3:30-3:45 PM)

In order to assist the staff with identifying a parent/guardian during pick-up, please write your child's grade, teacher's last name, and child's first and last name on a sheet of paper (at least 8 x 11 inches) and tape it to the front windshield of the passenger side of the car. Making this sign visible will help our process run smoothly.

Remember to make a sign for each car that will be used to pick-up your child. This system helps to move all the cars along at pick-up.

Transportation

- Your child's bus number, pick-up and drop-off times will be available soon on your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account.
- Each child will ride their assigned bus to and from school.
- Bus notes for changing your child's bus ride home for playdates will not be permitted.

School Supplies

The school supply lists may be found on our school's website at kes.klschools.org

Technology

Each student will have an assigned iPad that will be available for use in the classroom, as well as at home. Our goal is to integrate technology using a balanced and purposeful approach as we understand the importance and value of in-person learning experiences and non-digital activities.

Remote Learning

To meet the goal of having all students in-person, remote learning will not be a standard, year-long option. If, at any time, it becomes necessary to close schools and transition back to remote learning for all, KLSD is prepared. Medically fragile students will be evaluated on an individual, case by case basis. Families should reach out to their school principal if they believe their child may be unable to attend school.

Operations and Maintenance Department

As you drive onto our campus, you will notice the solar and wind powered lamp pole recently installed. They are free standing and completely powered by renewable energy. Our technology department will be adding enhancements that will connect the poles via WiFi to a suite of building management tools.

Mark Your Calendar for these Important Dates:

Thursday, September 2- Kindergarten Visitation at 1:45 PM

Thursday, September 2- New Family Orientation at 2:45 PM

Wednesday, September 8- PTO *'Chalk the Walk'*

Thursday, September 9- First Day of School, K-5 (9:15 AM – 3:40 PM)

Thursday, September 9- KES PTO Boohoo/Yahoo at the Town Park Pavilion at 9:30 AM

Wednesday, September 15- KES PTO General Membership Meeting at 9:30 AM- *virtual event*

Thursday, September 16- School Closed for Yom Kippur

Friday, September 17- KES TO *Back to School Picnic* 5-7 PM (rain date 9/24) *Location TBD

Saturday, September 18- *5th Grade Car Wash* Fundraiser at KES (rain date 9/25)

Tuesday, September 21- Grades K- 2 Curriculum Night at 7 PM- *virtual event*

Monday, September 27- School Picture Day

Monday, September 27- Grades 3-5 Curriculum Night at 7 PM- *virtual event*

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students in the coming weeks! In the meantime, enjoy the remaining days of summer and be sure to keep a look out for an email next week alerting you to check your Infinite Campus Parent Portal for teacher assignments and transportation information.

Sincerely,

Cristy Harris, Principal and Kweon Stambaugh, Assistant Principal