# Principal's Welcome

## with Kennedy Families & Friends (KFF)

*formerly PTO*



# What does KFF do?



- **Host family events** including the Ice Cream Social, Arts Night, Science Night, and End of the Year Picnic
- **Support Kennedy staff** with grants, meals, & appreciation days
- **Serve Kennedy families** through guest speakers, free meals at events, gift cards to school social workers
- **Advocate** for school needs
- **Fundraise** to support all those efforts!
  - Bucky Books available now - $35

# Everyone is welcome at KFF meetings!



4th Tuesday of the month

6:00 pm FREE MEAL
6:30-7:30 pm Meeting
at Kennedy

Free childcare provided.
Zoom available for meetings.

We have family members, staff members, and community leaders who attend.

# Meet the KFF Board

The board is responsible for planning events and voting on funding.



Laura McGuire, Pres.



Tianna Klemons, VP



Lauren Kuhl, Sec.

Karen Scott, Treas.



Joanna Schuth



Amanda Anderson



# Let’s stay connected!

- **Subscribe** to the google calendar
- Look for KFF updates each month in the **Kennedy newsletter**
- **Join the group** on Parent Square (More → Groups → Explore)
- Sign up for our **email list!**



# Seeking volunteers...

- Social media
- Event Planning (Science Night, Arts Night, etc.)
- Staff appreciation
- Gardening
- Outdoor Education / Nature Play committee
- Grants
  - Help with KFF applying for grants
  - Review classroom grant applications from teachers



# Welcome to our Principals!





Sarah Larson
Principal

Darlinne Kambwa
Assistant Principal




# Welcome to the 26-27 School Year



# Principal:
# Mrs. Larson-she, her

- Classroom teacher, reading specialist, principal
- Family-Live in the Ada Deer neighborhood with husband and 3 kids (2 at LaFollette, 1 UW Madison)
- My Philosophy: Student-centered learning, safe & inclusive culture, strong family partnerships
- Excited to join this amazing community!



**Assistant Principal- Ms. Kambwa**

- **Schools of Hope Tutor Coordinator**
- **Cross Categorical Special Education teacher**
- **Program Support Teacher and New Teacher Mentor**
- **Live on the east side with my husband and son**
- **I believe a high quality public education is a vehicle for social justice**

# Meet our Teacher Teams

Kindergarten:

Ms. Shanti

Ms. Olver

Ms. Mullen

Ms. Kuehl

Ms. Arttus (Olsen)

1st Grade:

Mr. Tatro

Mr. Fait

Ms. Mindy

Ms. Abing

Ms. Dombrowski (Drewery)

2nd Grade:

Mr. Fischer

Ms. Prado

Ms. Reiss

Ms. Lund

3rd Grade:

Ms. Foshay

Mr. Bohnsack

Ms. Salazar

Ms. Leaf

4th Grade:

Ms. Braatz

Ms. Gehrke

Mr. Krueger

Ms. Collins

5th Grade:

Ms. Nicka

Ms. Cruz

Mr. Carlson

Mr. Brandt

# New Staff



Ms. Gabi (she/her/hers) - SEA



Mr. Krueger (KREE-ger) (he/him/his)-4th Grade



Ms. Anne (she/her/hers)-School Psych



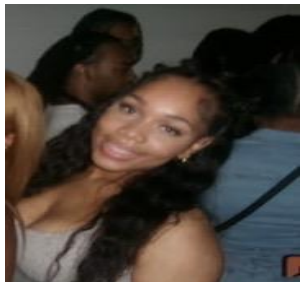
Megan Kaddatz (she/her/hers)-Speech and Language



Jenna Carlson (she/her/hers)-CC Teacher



Adam Chiappetti (he/him/his) SEA



Ayana Brown - SEA



Mrs. Husted (Feuersthaler) (She/Her/Hers) - Music

Mr. Mike: New CC Teacher

Ms. Ava-Art

Music-Vacancy

# Let’s get to know each other

Stand up if...

You are the parent of a Kennedy Kindergartener

You have a child in 1st-5th grade that  is new the Kennedy Community

You attended MMSD schools as a student

You attended Kennedy, Whitehorse or LaFollette as a student

# Our work for 2026–2027:

## Data, School Improvement Plan and Supports

# Beginning of Year Data

# Beginning of Year Data

| GRADE | At or Above Benchmark | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Overall | Black Students | Special Education |
| KINDER & 1st | 59% | 44% | 52% |
| 2ND-3RD | 63% | 55% | 50% |
| 4TH-5TH | 57% | 32% | 33% |



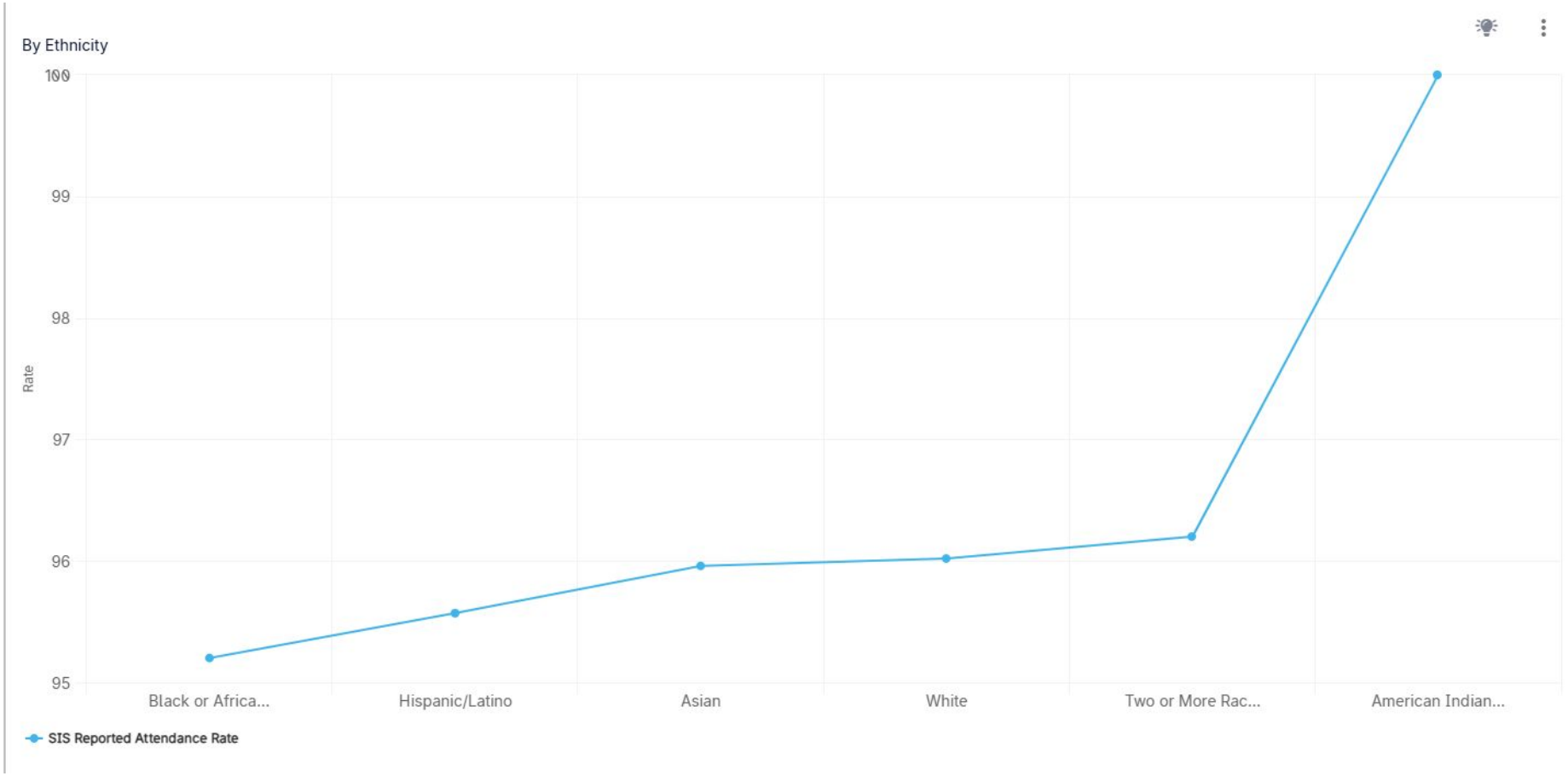
FAST earlyReading™ K–1: Student completes four subtests that measure important beginning reading skills related to letter names, letter sounds, as well as word and sentence reading.

2nd-5th Oral Reading Fluency: Student reads out loud for one minute while the teacher records any errors.

# Attendance Data-Sept

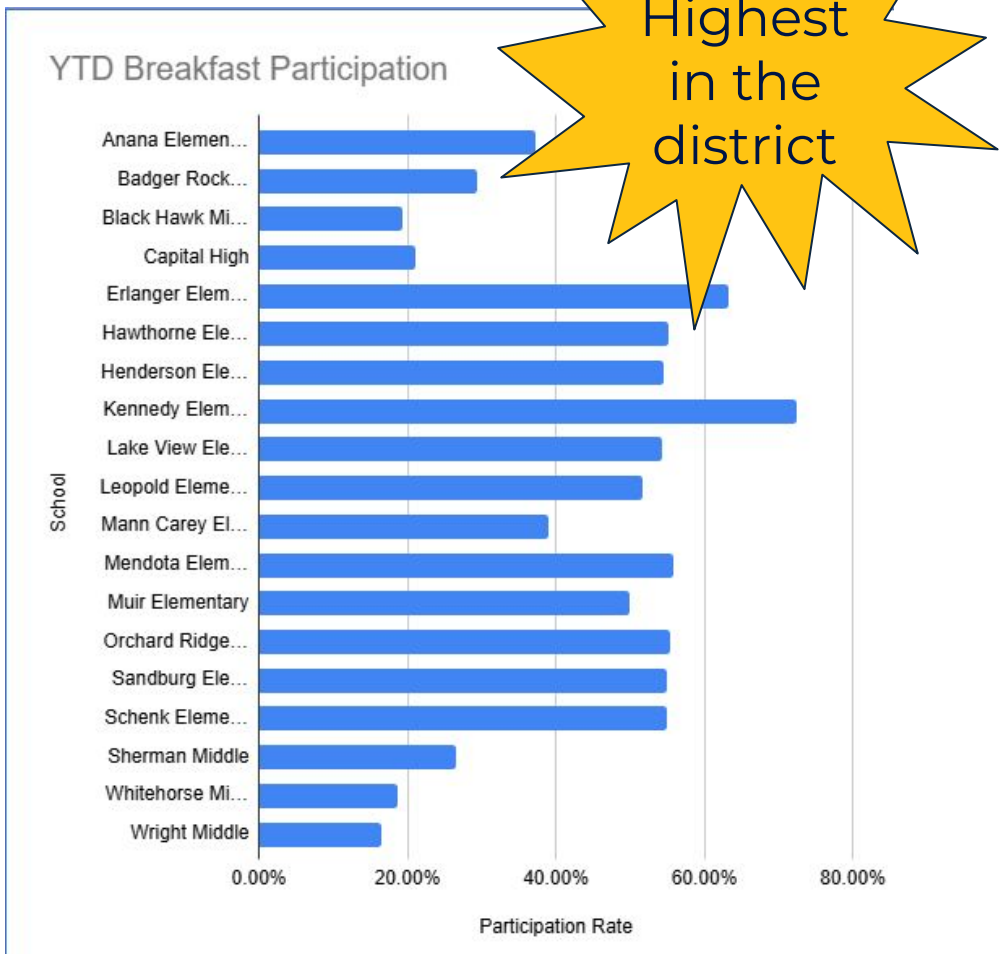
The district and every school in it is a place where children, staff and families thrive.

**Goal: Student attendance will be 92% or higher.**

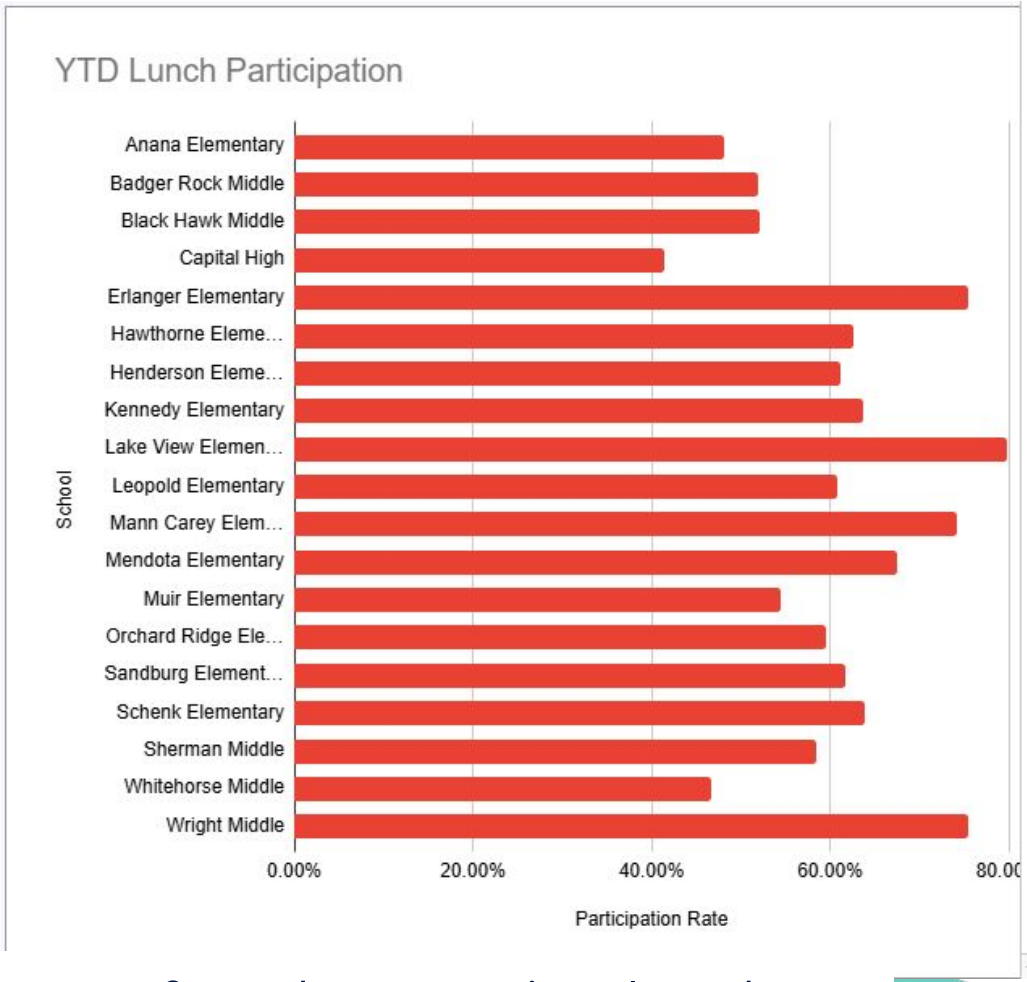


# CEP (Community Eligibility Provision)-Free Breakfast and Lunch For All

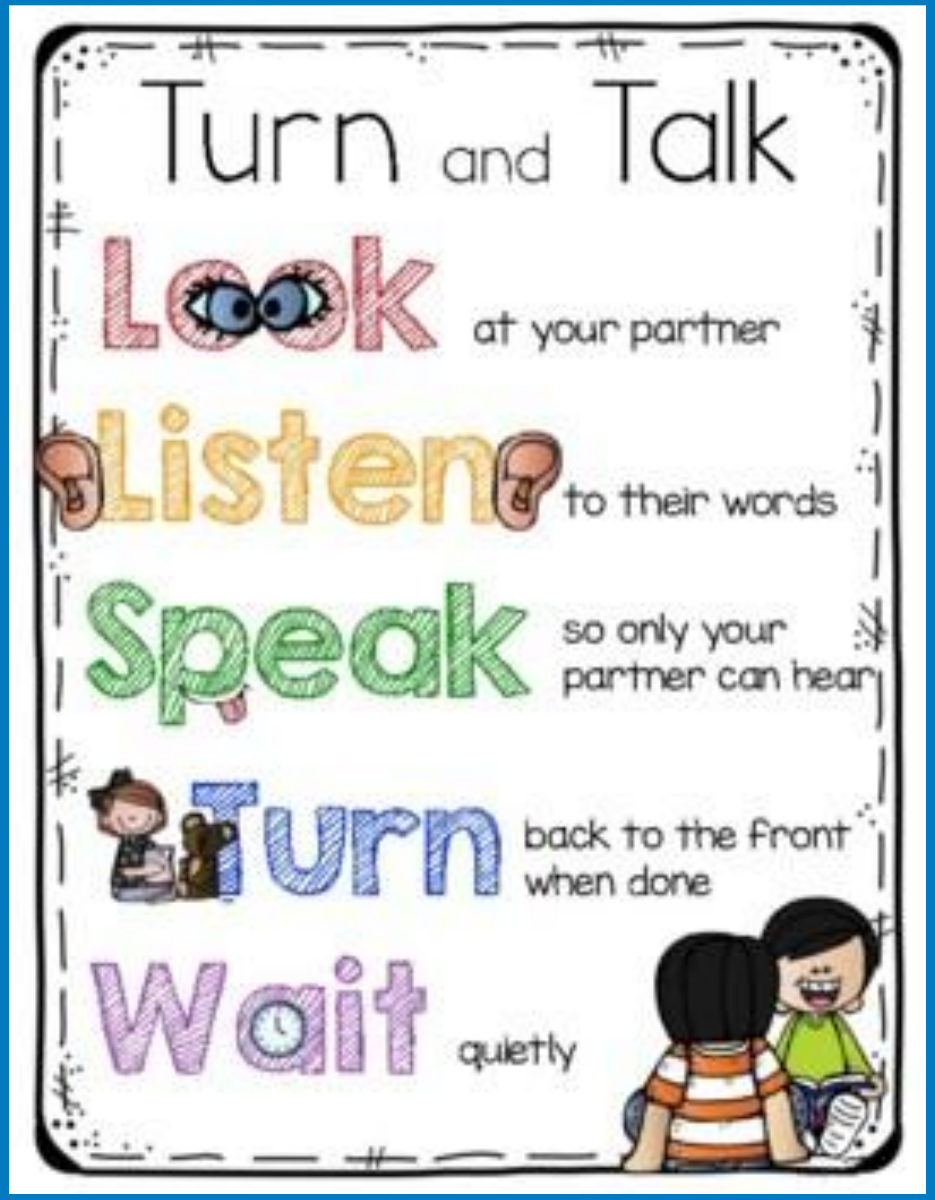
Highest in the district




69% of students eating breakfast: goal is 50%




64% of students eating lunch: goal is 70%




Turn and Talk: As you look at the data,

- What is resonating with you?
- What questions do you have?

Write them on a post-it note so we can address them.

# School Improvement Plan

## Three goal areas



### Goal 1

Every child is on track to graduate ready for college, career and community.



### Goal 2

The district and every school in it is a place where children, staff, and families thrive.



### Goal 3

African-American children and youth excel in school.

## Specific strategies each year to work towards our goals




## Academic Goal: Every Child on Track to Graduate!

We are fully committed to making sure **every single student** is set up for success and ready to graduate. To do this, every classroom will use a high-quality, standards-based curriculum in math and literacy. This means your child is learning exactly what they need to know for their grade level.

Staff will analyze data and co-plan as a team to meet the needs of each student through small group instruction.

# HOW WE MAKE LEARNING ENGAAGING & EFFECTIVE IN OUR CLASSROOMS EVERY DAY

## CLEAR LEARNING TARGETS




Teachers share the goal of the lesson in simple language right at the start.
Your child will always know exactly what they are learning and why it matters.

## FUN & STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES (Protocols)




We use organized group activities that keep learning active, moving, and exciting.

## STUDENT DISCOURSE (Talking to Learn)



Students don't just sit and listen. They are encouraged to talk, share ideas, and solve problems together. This builds their confidence and and teamwork skills.

## TEAMWORK FOR TEACHERS (Co-planning & Data)




Our staff meets regularly to plan lessons together. They look closely at student work and test scores to see exactly who needs extra help and who is ready for a bigger challenge.







## Attendance: Creating a School Students Love Coming To!

We want every student to feel **safe, welcome, and excited** to walk through our doors each morning. To make this happen, our teachers and staff are using a shared approach called **Developmental Designs**. This means we are all using the same positive language and routines across the whole school. By building this supportive community, we want to make school a place your child **wants to be** every single day!

# HERE IS WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE IN ACTION FOR YOUR CHILD:

## MORNING MEETINGS




Every day starts with a positive group meeting. Students greet each other, share news, and do a fun activity together so everyone feels included.

## SOCIAL CONTRACTS

Classrooms work together to create their own agreements on how to treat each other with respect and kindness.




## MODEL ROUTINES

We don't just tell students the rules; we practice and model them together so everyone knows exactly how succeed.



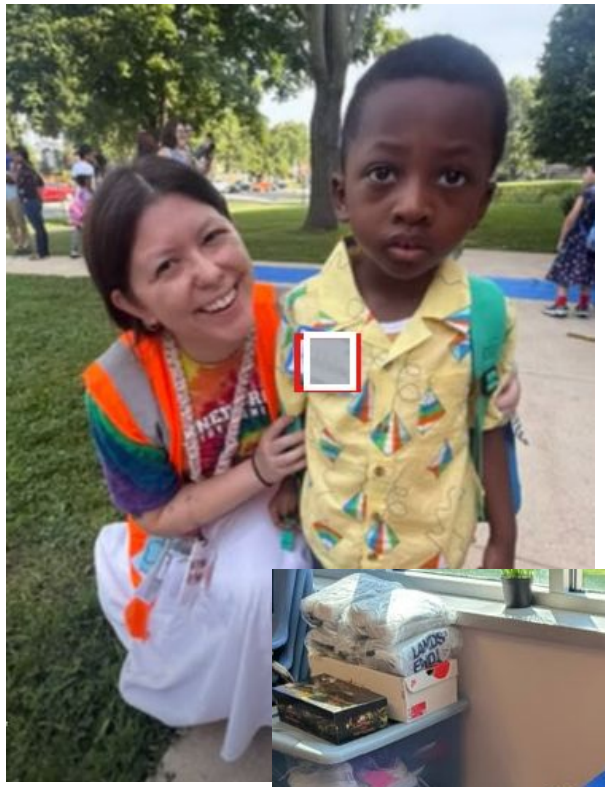

Waiting patiently and waited on & working patiently.

## EMPOWERING LANGUAGE

Teachers use words that encourage students, celebrate their hard work, and help them think critically.




**BY BUILDING THIS SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY, WE WANT TO MAKE SCHOOL A PLACE YOUR CHILD WANTS TO BE EVERY SINGLE DAY!**








## Goal 3: Helping Our African American Students Succeed

We want to make sure every Black student succeeds at Kennedy and that Black students and their family feels welcome, supported, and cared for at our school. To do this, we are focusing on disaggregating data to inform planning and decisions made across the school as well as building strong, meaningful relationships.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING SURE EVERY BLACK STUDENT GETS THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY, FEEL SAFE AND VALUED, AND HAVE A TRUSTED ADULT TO TURN TO.**

## TAILORED LEARNING

Teachers will regularly track student progress to customize daily lessons so every child hits their learning targets.




## A WELCOMING & RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT

We are creating safe, positive spaces where all students feel a true sense of belonging. When behavior challenges arise, we will use a supportive, relationship-focused approach that helps students learn from their mistakes while preserving their dignity.



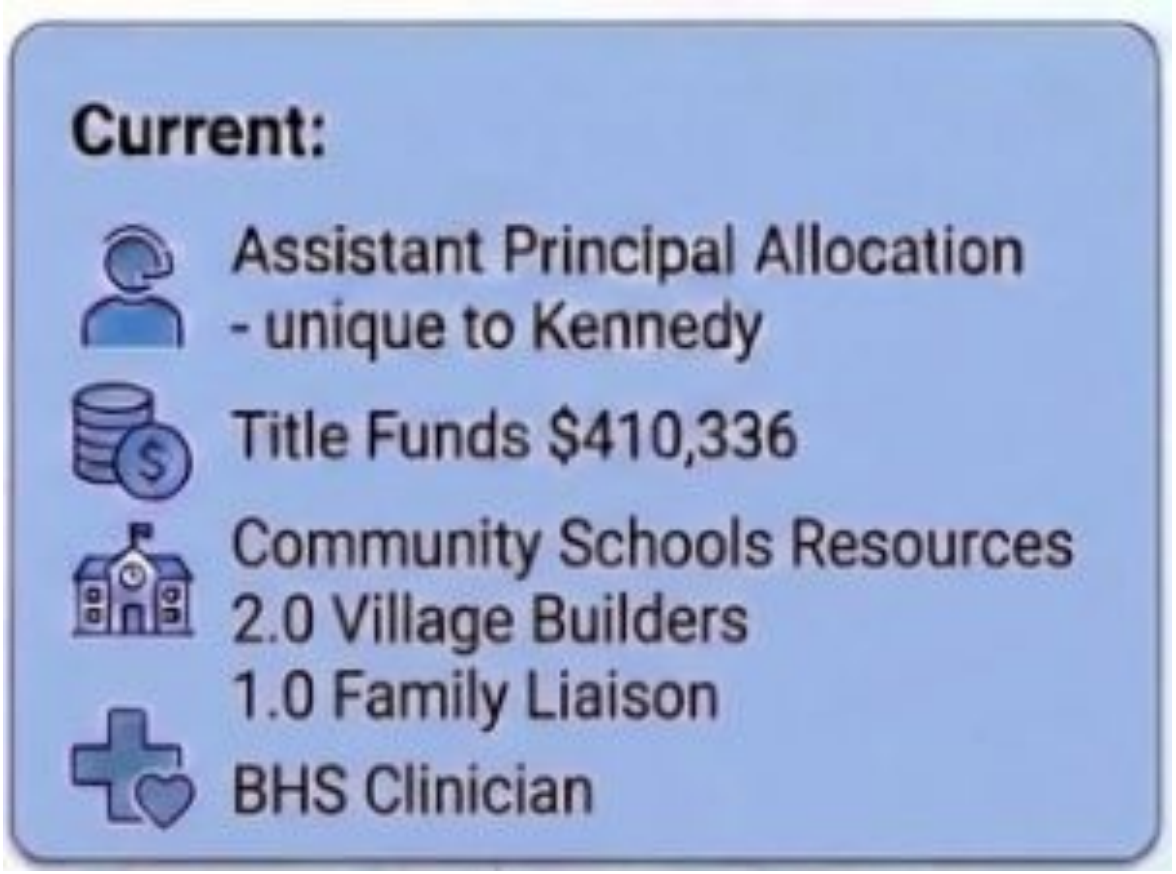

## TRUSTED CONNECTIONS & STRONG ATTENDANCE

Our target is for 100% of Black students to have a trusted adult at Kennedy. We will partner closely with families to help overcome any obstacles to getting to on time and celebrate every attendance milestone along the way.




SUCCESS, SAFETY, BELONGING, ATTENDANCE

# Supports for our Community:




## Title 1 Budget and Compact

- Increase staffing
- EL Coaching
- Tools for Teaching
- Conferences-Adult Learning to support instruction
- Developmental Designs Training

# Kennedy Community School

Community School Coordinator, Family Liaison, Village Builders




## Our School's Successes Already on a Positive track

Kindergarten Play Date- 101 Attended



Harmony Back To School BBQ - 289 in Attendance 25+ staff

Meadowland Back To School BBQ - 273 Attendance 15 + staff




Backpack day - 301 Attendance





# How can KFF support Kennedy?

## Advocacy We Need From You

### Increased Funding



Increased Funding from legislature

### Mental Health Support



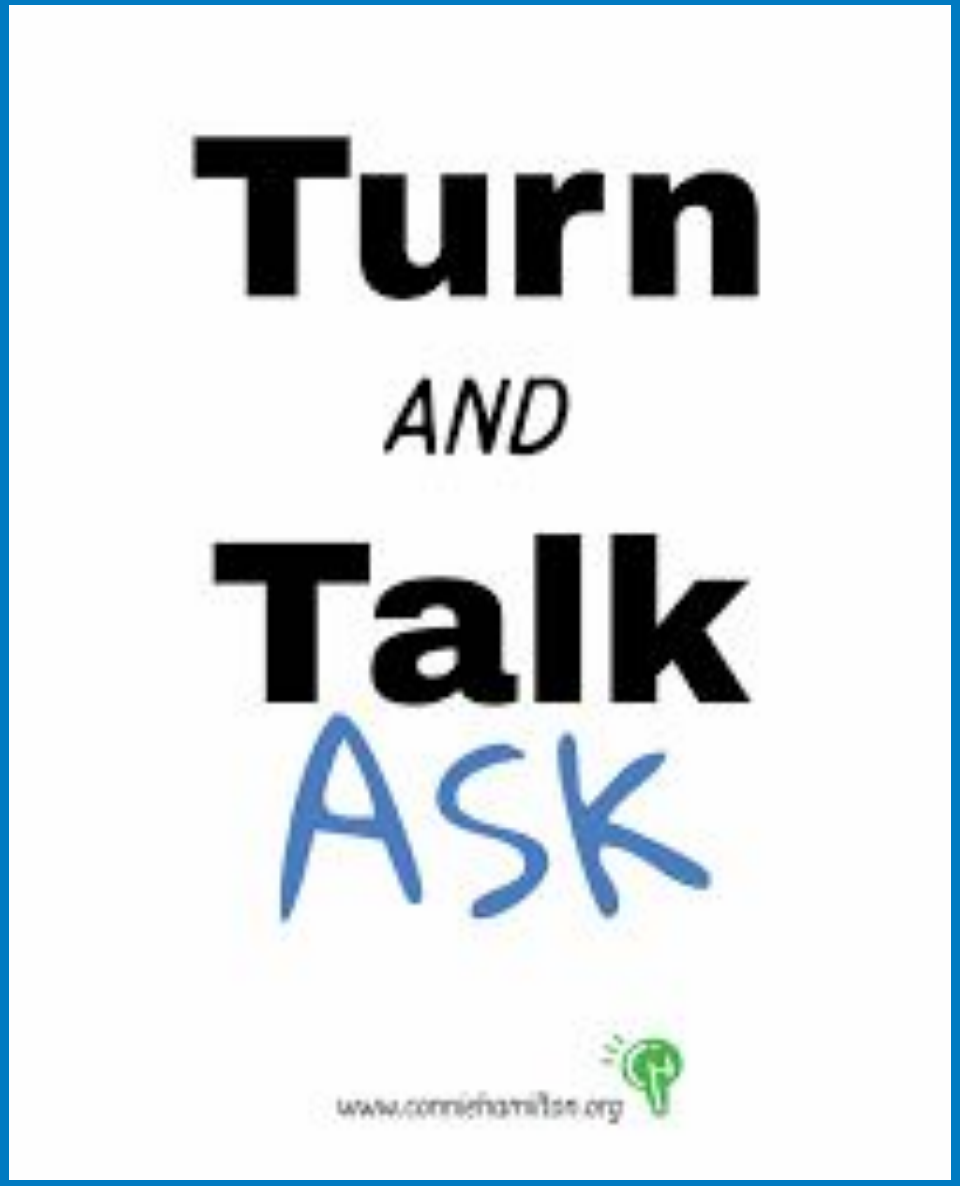
Significant increases in access from county

### Community Center



Build a center near Kennedy






Turn and Talk:

- What is resonating with you?
- What questions do you have?


Let’s Go Kennedy!