



Karns City Area School District

Karns City Junior-Senior High School
1446 Kittanning Pike
Karns City, PA 16041
724-756-2030

Mrs. Brenda R. Knoll
Assistant Principal

Dr. Michael S. Stimac
Principal

July 2025

Dear Karns City Jr./Sr. High Student and Family:

In preparation for the 2025-2026 school year, please take time to review this letter carefully, so that you are aware of important information and changes pertaining to the new school year.

DIGITAL SCHEDULES - Just like last year, rather than mailing home students' schedules, students can now access their schedules by logging into their Infinite Campus account. This can be done by downloading the Campus Student App and using school login information. Additionally, students can access their Infinite Campus account by clicking "Student" > "Infinite Campus" on the district's website (www.kcasdk12.org). Students can log into their accounts by using their username, which is their email address (last two digits of graduation year + last name + first name @kcasdk12.org) and their password, which is their student ID followed by kc. For example, student "John Smith," class of 2032 would use 32smithjohn@kcasdk12.org (username) and 123456kc (password). When reviewing your schedule, remember that it is still tentative and additional changes may occur. For instance, you may see a course on your schedule that was not your first choice; a change like this may have been made on your behalf with your overall academic goals in mind.

If there are classes you would like to add or drop, you may request a schedule change by going to kchs.kcasdk12.org, where you can access the "Schedule Change Request" form under the "Academics" tab. It is our intention to accommodate your requests before the first day of school, but please know that changes will not be made without sound, academic rationale. You will receive an updated schedule in your homeroom when you return. If you would like to meet and discuss your schedule with a school counselor, please email Mrs. (Riley) Voltz (Grades 7-9) at ariley@kcasdk12.org or Mr. Bowser (Grades 10-12) at jbowser@kcasdk12.org. Otherwise, all requests can be made using the "Schedule Change Request" form mentioned above.

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS: HOW CAN I CHECK MY CHILD'S GRADES

Parents can use Infinite Campus to check their child's grades. To access Infinite Campus, parents can either download the Infinite Campus Parent Portal App, or click on "Parent" > "Parent Resources" > "Infinite Campus" on the district's website. If you created a parent account in 2024-2025, your account will be active for the 2025-2026 school year. However, if you do not have an account, please email helpdesk@kcasdk12.org and share your name, your child's name and grade, and request an activation code. Our technology team will email you a code to register your account.

If you need to update your household information, such as your address, phone number, and/or email, please follow the directions by clicking on the following link: [Update Household Information in Infinite Campus](#)

Updating this information is extremely important, because we intend to use Infinite Campus for regular communication.

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS: IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DISTRICT COMMUNICATION

We will launch all-calls and email important information using Infinite Campus. Therefore, it is imperative that parents create and update their Infinite Campus contact information. By doing this, parents can receive phone calls, text messages, and emails from the district. Please click on the following link for directions about updating your contact information: [Click Here](#)

IMPORTANT DATES and INFORMATION

Seventh Grade/New Student Orientation **AND** Open House

We will hold Orientation and Open House on the same night. This will take place on August 18 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. New students, 7th Graders, and their families are encouraged to arrive at 5:00 for a meeting in the auditorium. After the meeting, new students will tour the building and meet their teachers. All returning students and their families can come anytime between 5:00 and 7:00.

Annual Pie Festival

One way to become acquainted with the high school is by attending the annual Pie Festival, where we honor the students who participate in Fall extracurricular activities. This is also a great opportunity to support our band by purchasing pie and other sweet treats. This year's Pie Festival will take place on Friday, August 15 at 6 pm at the high school.

When is the First Day of School? When is the First Day of Vo-Tech?

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 20. The first day of Vo-Tech is Thursday, August 21. Vo-Tech bus assignments will be shared with students when they report to the school on August 21.

I am a KC Cyber Student. When and How will I Receive my Schedule?

KC Cyber students' schedules will be emailed directly to the student and their parents approximately 1 week before school begins.

What Time Does School Start at the High School?

Homeroom begins at 7:26 am, but students have access to breakfast, lockers, and their homeroom class starting at 7:15 am. The school day ends at 2:33 pm.

Parent-Teacher Conference Day - November 10

School will not be in session on November 10, because it is scheduled for parent-teacher conferences. Most of the high school's conferences will take place via phone calls, with the intention to address any academic, social, or behavioral concerns that may be appearing. More information will be forthcoming. If you would like to schedule an in-person conference, please call the high school office.

Changes at the High School in 2025-2026

The District would like to welcome Miss Mykaela Lipscomb to the high school. She will teach 7th Grade World Geography.

What Happens if School is Closed Due to Weather?

The District website provides important information regarding remote Flexible Instruction Days (FIDs). We are permitted to use up to five FIDs days this year when inclement weather forces us to close school. You can read more about school-closure information and FIDs by clicking "[Weather Delays/School Closures & Remote Learning](#)" under the "Our District" tab on the District's website. We encourage you to visit the District website on a regular basis for updates and announcements.

If I Drive My Student to School, Where Should I Drop Off and Pick Up My Child?

Please arrive between 7:05 am and 7:20 am and park along the yellow tree-lined curb in front of the high school's main entrance. Typically, there is a line of cars along the curb; once you are at the front of the line, your student can exit the vehicle and walk the white-lined crosswalk to the front entrance. You are not permitted to drop your child off on the curb directly in front of the school, as this will interfere with busing. If you plan to pick up your child, please arrive after the buses have pulled out of the lot; this generally occurs at about 2:45. You can park in the district parking lot.

Will Students Receive a Chromebook?

Like last year, every student will be issued their own Chromebook on the first day of school. Students are responsible for charging and maintaining their Chromebooks. Although students will possess their Chromebooks throughout the year, the District owns them. Regardless, it is critical that students take care of their devices as if *they* own them. Any damage to a Chromebook will result in financial charges to cover repair costs, as well as potential disciplinary action for intentional damage. Similarly, students are highly encouraged to be good digital citizens. Please be aware that the District employs online filters to identify potentially dangerous and/or inappropriate online content.

Parents/Students have the option to purchase Chromebook insurance for a **flat fee of \$25**. This insurance covers **one instance of damage**, whether **intentional or accidental**. If insurance is **not purchased**, the student and their family will be **fully responsible for any and all repair or replacement costs** resulting from damage to the device.

Attendance Information

When a student is absent from school, they should take a parental excuse to the high school office the day they return from their absence. Excuses can also be emailed to Mrs. Melinda Kepple, Attendance Clerk, at melindakepple@kcasdk12.org, or they can be faxed to the High School Office at 724-756-1060.

Failure to turn in an excuse will result in an illegal absence. By law, three illegal absences is defined as “truant.” Once a student has accrued three illegal absences, they and their parents will be required to meet with a principal to develop a truancy elimination plan. Furthermore, when a student has accrued six or more unexcused absences, by law, they are defined as “habitually truant.” Habitual truancy may result in a hearing before the Magisterial District Judge.

Above all, please keep in mind that there is a direct correlation between attendance and school performance. Students who exhibit attendance issues are more likely to experience academic difficulties. Please know that failure to attend school may result in retention. Additionally, if your child is experiencing issues that are causing barriers to school attendance, please call a principal or school counselor so that we can work to assist you and your child.

Picture Day

Picture Day for students in grades 7-11 is currently scheduled for October 1, and make-up day is scheduled for November 20. Seniors will have their pictures taken on September 22 at the high school, and will have the option to choose up to six different **portraits**.

State Testing Dates and Other Tests

All 7th and 8th graders will take the PSSA (grade 7 will take the PSSA English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math tests; grade 8 will take the PSSA ELA, Math, and Science tests). Testing dates are tentatively scheduled as follows: ELA - April 20, 21, and 22; Math - April 27 and 28; Science - April 29.

Additionally, 7th graders will take the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) to help measure abstract thinking and reasoning. It measures students’ ability to cope with school learning tasks, to suggest their possible placement for school learning functions, and to evaluate their achievement in relation to the talents they bring to school learning situations.

Prior to the end of their 11th grade year, unless opted out by a parent, every student will have taken the Keystone Literature, Algebra, and Biology Exams. 9th graders will take the Keystone Literature and Biology exams as first-time test-takers. Students enrolled in an Algebra 1 course or Honors Algebra course (grades 7 and above) will take the Algebra Exam as first-time test-takers. Students enrolled in Biology or College Prep Biology will take the Biology Exam as first-time test-takers. Students who were less than proficient may retake an exam. Please know that passing the Keystone Exams is not the only way to satisfy the State’s graduation requirements. There are numerous graduation pathways; information regarding those pathways can be found here: [Click Here](#)

The Keystone Exams are currently scheduled for the following dates: Literature - May 11-12; Algebra - May 13-14; Biology - May 18-19.

Students in grade 11 will have the opportunity to take the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in October. We are tentatively scheduled to offer the PSAT on October 17. The PSAT is a test generally taken in advance of taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). It is a multiple choice test that measures critical reading skills, mathematical reasoning abilities, and writing skills important in doing college level work. The PSAT is a test that can help students prepare for the SAT and college entrance.

Lastly, 10th graders will take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). This test will likely be administered on January 16, 2026, and is designed to measure an individual’s vocational aptitude. It is utilized in conjunction with an interest inventory and the Occufind to help students explore career options based on their aptitudes and interests. Additionally, achieving a score of 31 or higher will satisfy PA state graduation requirements if a student does not pass the Keystone Exams.

Interested seniors may take the ASVAB on September 25, 2025.

As we approach testing dates, we will share more information as well as the proper procedures for opting your child out of testing obligations, should you prefer your child not take one of the aforementioned exams.

Preparing our students for a future of endless possibilities.

Will Karns City Host the SAT this Year?

Yes. Students interested in taking the SAT will have the opportunity to take it at the High School on Saturday, November 8, 2025 and/or Saturday, March 14, 2026. Students can register on the College Board website. If you have questions regarding the SAT and registration, please call the Guidance Office at 724-756-2030, ext. 1025 or email Mr. Bowser at jbowser@kcasdk12.org.

When Will the Guidance Office Host Financial Aid Night

Students who may want to attend college are highly encouraged to attend Financial Aid Night on September 30, 2025 at 5:00 pm. This is an opportunity to learn about grant opportunities and completing the FAFSA. Additionally, "Junior Jump Start" will occur on April 21, 2026. Again, this is an opportunity to learn about grant opportunities for college. More information regarding both events will be forthcoming.

College and Career Fairs

Armstrong High School will host a College and Career Fair on Wednesday, September 10. Mr. Bowser will email seniors regarding this opportunity as we get closer to the start of the school year. At Karns City, we will host similar events. On October 2, we will host a college fair where students will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from various colleges. Additionally, we will host a career fair on November 20 where students will have the opportunity to engage with multiple representatives from various job fields.

Respectfully,

Brenda Knoll
Assistant Principal

Mike Stimac
Principal