

# JOHN F. KENNEDY BEARS



Good afternoon, Families,

I hope you enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer! We are excited to welcome your children back to John F. Kennedy Middle School. I know 2025-2026 will be a positive and productive school year. Thank you for taking the time to read our opening newsletter. It contains important information that will ensure a seamless transition back to school. As always, please reach out with any questions.

### **Locker Set Up Day**

School supply lists can be found on our [website](#) and dropped off during our locker set-up day. Locker set-up day is Tuesday, August 26th, from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Families should adhere to the schedule below. This creates a healthy flow of students and families in the hallways. Please enter through the middle school.

<b>Tuesday, August 26th</b>	
7th grade and 8th grade students	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
6th-grade students	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### **6th Grade and New Student Orientation**

Wednesday, August 27th, at 6:00 PM is our 6th-grade and new student orientation. This will take place in the JFK Greenauer Auditorium. Students and families should enter through our JFK HS main entrance. It will last approximately 75 minutes. We will provide an overview of the middle school, distribute student schedules, and review important information and details.

## **Immunizations and Physicals**

Please adhere to the following information regarding student [immunizations and physicals](#). Proof of immunizations must be shared with Nurse Rupp before September 1st. For any student-athletes, physicals must not be older than one year prior to the 1st day of the month that the sports season starts.

## **Transportation**

All busing is through First Student. Their annual transportation letters will be mailed out. If you have any questions- please contact First Student directly.

## **First Day of School**

Our first day of school is Thursday, September 5th. Upon entering the building, all students will report to their homeroom. They will then have time to set up their locker, Chromebook, and review important procedures. Student schedules will go live via the student portal on September 2nd. Please review your child's schedule. It is extremely helpful for all students to know the name of their homeroom teacher. We will have staff guiding students to their homerooms.

## **Important Policy Update**

As Superintendent Mrs. Andrea Galenski recently communicated, the New York State Distraction Free Law takes effect at the start of the 2025-26 school year. To promote a focused and productive learning environment, students must keep personal electronic devices—including cell phones, smart watches, and earbuds—powered off and stored in their lockers throughout the school day. Please discuss this with your child and reinforce the importance of this initiative and the positive results of a distraction-free school day. All plan details will be communicated to students on our first day of school.

As a reminder, please review the district calendar that was mailed to all households and is available on the district website. It includes important upcoming district and school-wide events and information. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the main office at (716) 897-7000. Have a wonderful rest of your summer. Thank you!

Best,

Mr. Christopher Farrell, Principal  
John F. Kennedy Middle School