



Kate Bond Elementary

December Newsletter

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Parents in the Know

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back from Thanksgiving break, KBE families! I hope your time with loved ones was restful, joyful, and rejuvenating. As we return to school, we are excited to finish the semester strong and make the most of the three important weeks ahead.

We are proud to share that Kate Bond Elementary continues to make meaningful progress. Recent district shifts show stronger subgroup performance and reflect the early impact of more aligned practices across our school community. These results show that KBE is moving forward with purpose while staying focused on the areas where we must continue to grow.

Our improvement shows what becomes possible when instruction is aligned, supports are targeted, and our entire team remains committed to growing together. We are not yet where we ultimately want to be, but every small win brings us closer to the big one we are working toward in Spring 2026.

As always, thank you for your partnership, your support, and the trust you place in our school. Together, we are creating a strong foundation for every child at Kate Bond Elementary. With gratitude,

Ms. Crutcher



School-wide 25-26 AMOs

- ELA- 40.6 %
- **Math** - 37.7 %
- Science - 42.4 %

Upcoming Dates

(See flyer for dress out days details)

- Dec. 4th - Picture day (UNIFORMS: Group and Fall make-up pictures)
- Dec. 5th - Student dress out day
- Dec. 8th - 12th - Benchmark #2
- Dec. 12th - Student dress out day
- Winter Royal Court -9:45
- Dec. 15th - 19th - Student Dress out week
- Dec. 17th - Holiday Program (tentatively)
- Dec. 18th - KBE annual Spelling Bee
- Movie Night hosted by PTO
- Dec. 19th - Classroom Holiday Parties
- Club Day
- Qtr 2 ends
- Dec. 20th - Jan. 5 - Winter Break | Students out
- Jan. 6th Students return

*****Calendar is subject to change *****

Moved from TSI to Good Standing

Belle Forest Community School
Circles of Success Learning Academy
Cromwell Elementary
Downtown Elementary
Kate Bond Elementary 
Keystone Elementary
Memphis Merit Academy
Memphis School of Excellence Elementary
Southern Avenue Charter School
Trezevant High

Attendance Matters — Every Day Counts!

Strong attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's academic success. When students are in school consistently, they build essential skills, stay connected to their teachers, and make steady progress toward grade-level expectations. Attendance doesn't just impact student learning; it also impacts our school's overall rating with the state, which evaluates schools in part by their yearly chronic absenteeism rate.

As we enter the holiday season, we want to share an important reminder: historically, our attendance tends to decline during the months of November and December. We are asking for your partnership in ensuring that vacation travel begins after the last day of this semester, **December 19th**, so students don't miss valuable instructional time during these crucial final weeks.

We also understand that appointments are sometimes unavoidable. Whenever possible, please schedule appointments before or after school. If that is not possible, choosing early-morning or late-afternoon appointments allow students to attend the majority of the school day rather than missing the entire day. And please remember to send a doctor's note upon your child's return so the absence can be properly excused.



Students are prohibited from bringing Stanley cups or similar items to school.

KBE Uniform Policy Reminder

REMINDER: School uniforms are required. We have noticed an increase in students arriving out of uniform, which is not acceptable. Please note that leggings and jogging pants are not permitted as uniform bottoms.

Uniform Expectations:

Bottoms: Khaki, black, or navy blue

Tops: White, navy blue, or grey

Indoor Jackets/Sweaters: Uniform colors only

Violators of the school's uniform policy will be addressed according to school rules.

From The Guidance Department:

Dealing with Holiday Stress

Holiday stress is felt by most people. It is a time of experiencing mixed feelings. For many there are feelings of excitement and anticipation while for others there are feelings of sadness and loneliness. Depending on what is going on in their lives people can experience both feelings simultaneously. Here are seven coping skills sure to help you lessen stress during the holidays.

- Acknowledge what you feel. If you have had a loss or can't be with loved ones you will feel sadness. Give yourself permission to be sad but also look for positive ways to help you get through this time of year.
- Be realistic about change. Remember that change is a constant in life. All families grow and change as do celebrations and rituals. Hold on to rituals that you enjoy and can continue and find ways to add newness to the holidays.
- It will help to accept family members and friends as they are. Every one of them is dealing with their own stress. Let go of unspoken expectations. Instead see how you can be supportive to them.
- Keep up your daily healthy habits. If you regularly exercise, stick to your schedule. Exercise is a great way to relieve stress. If you have not been exercising, try to add 15 minutes a day for some aerobic exercise. You will be amazed of how much more energetic you will feel after a brisk walk around the block.
- If you tend to indulge too much try having a plan this year. There will be more food to tempt you. Eat a healthy snack before going to a party so you don't go over-board on other items. Overindulgence increases self-loathing. Better to remind yourself ahead of time and stick to a plan instead of berating yourself with guilt.
- Be the one who decides what is right for you. Learn to say NO. Get good at listening to what your body and mind say you can handle. Others may have expectations of you, but you are the only one who can decide if you can fulfill them or not.
- There is no such thing as perfect holidays. Don't aim for perfection. What you want to keep in mind is that you will be more relaxed if you have a simple goal like "I want to enjoy my holidays."

Safety Spotlight: Winter Weather & Seasonal Safety

As we move into the winter months, it's important to ensure our students stay safe during colder weather and seasonal transitions. December often brings unpredictable temperatures, early sunsets, and increased holiday activity, all of which can impact student safety before, during, and after school.

Cold-Weather Preparedness

Please make sure your child comes to school dressed warmly each day. Temperatures often drop unexpectedly, and students should have a coat, hat, and gloves for morning arrival, recess, and dismissal. Labeling outerwear with your child's name can also help reduce the number of lost items during this busy season.

Afternoon Dismissal Safety

Because it gets darker earlier, visibility can be reduced. Whether your child is a bus rider, car rider, or walker, we encourage families to talk with students about staying alert, walking with awareness, and using sidewalks and crosswalks when possible.

Holiday Season Awareness

With the excitement of the season, routines can shift and distractions can increase. Remind your child to follow school safety expectations, maintain personal space, and use kind, respectful behavior as we finish the semester strong. Emotional safety is just as important this time of year. Encourage your child to speak up if they feel stressed or overwhelmed.

Staying Healthy

Winter also brings an uptick in seasonal illnesses. Help us keep our classrooms healthy by encouraging frequent handwashing and keeping them home only when they are genuinely sick. When students return after an illness or appointment, please send a doctor's note so we can update attendance records accurately.