

John F. Kennedy Middle School – March 16, 2026



Good afternoon, Families,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. It's been wonderful enjoying milder weather, and if it's an indicator that Spring is on the way, we are in luck. The nicer weather allows students and families more opportunities to be active outside. This aids physical and mental health by reducing stress, improving mood, and boosting cognitive function. Think of ways you can enjoy the outdoors with your children!

Academics



Friday, March 6th, was our 25th week of school. 25-week progress reports are published and available via the portal. Please review these with your child. Many students are hard at work- paying attention in class, turning in assignments, and studying for quizzes and tests. Students passing all their classes enjoyed our 25-week Karaoke sing-along celebration in the auditorium. It was wonderful recognizing students for their effort and seeing them sing together - everyone had a great time!

Any student who is placed on academic probation or ineligibility will receive a separate letter from Mrs. Bandemer. This restricts students' ability to participate in sports, drama, and after-school activities. If your child is struggling in any classes, we have opportunities for academic support. Mrs. Ruffner, in our Academic Learning Center (ALC), is available to students during study halls and after school from Monday through Thursday, with a late bus provided. Mrs. Ruffner (cruffner@cheektowagasloan.org) is a critical resource. Please reach out to her directly with any questions.

School-wide Updates

Thank you to all families who supported our Peace and Kindness week. Students dressed up for the themed days, and many students purchased “hugs and kisses” in support of our National Junior Honor Society. Additionally, our GLOW dance was a huge success. We have an exciting month ahead. On March 17th, we’re welcoming Irish Dancers to perform for our school as part of their St. Patrick’s Day dancing tours. We also have our Spring Musical preview on Thursday, March 26th. This includes a school-wide preview of the upcoming musical, *Mame*. Lastly, we have a special field trip planned for April 1st. The Mobile Museum of Tolerance will visit the middle school. This first-of-its-kind traveling education center promotes tolerance and teaches tools for understanding.

Attendance

We have seen a decrease in our overall school-wide attendance during the winter months. Students must be in school and on time every day. As part of our Level Up initiative, we are targeting students to be on time every day. Students who arrive late miss important morning announcements and instructional time, which can lead to confusion and missed coursework. We want to ensure all students are in class and receiving the important instruction necessary for them to be successful.

Reminders

We’re seeing an increase in students bringing fidget toys to school. These can be important and help many students stay focused and on task. However, if fidgets are not used properly, students will not be allowed to carry them and use them throughout the day.

Students should continue storing cell phones in their lockers during the school day (arrival to dismissal). Thank you for your partnership and support with this state-wide law.

Upcoming Spirit Days




Tuesday, March 17th - Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day 

Friday, March 20th - Hat Day Fundraiser (\$1.00)



Friday, March 20th - College Team Spirit Day (in support of March Madness) 


Wednesday, March 25th - Wear your favorite music-themed shirt (band, singer, etc.) 

Friday, March 27th - JFK Spirit Day - Wear Black and Gold Bear-Ware

Friday, March 27th - Sunday, March 29th - Spring Musical, *Mame*

Friday, April 3rd - Friday, April 10th - NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

Friday, April 17th - 30 week mark (end of MP3)

Friday, April 17th - Class Color Day 

Best,

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