

BACK TO SCHOOL

KENNEDY NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2026



WELCOME KENNEDY FAMILIES, TO THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!



Mrs. BOELTER

PRINCIPAL

contact information:



320-214-6688



boelters@willmar.k12.mn.us

About Mrs. Boelter

Welcome to Kennedy! I am Mrs. Boelter and am starting my 20th year in education this fall. This is my 8th year working at Willmar Public Schools. This will be my 6th year at Kennedy, I was the Assistant Principal for 3 years. This will be my 3rd year as Principal. I will work hard to create a nurturing environment where learning is an adventure and every student is celebrated. Please contact me anytime as we want our families to be included and have a voice too.



Mr. SHaffer

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

contact information:



320-214-6688



shafferc@willmar.k12.mn.us

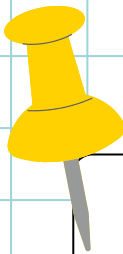
About Mr. Shaffer

Welcome to Kennedy; we're so glad you're here! I am Mr. Shaffer, and I am starting my first year with Willmar Public Schools, tenth year in education overall. Before coming to Kennedy, I spent 8 years teaching in Pelican Rapids, MN and one year as a Behavior Specialist with SWWC. Our Kennedy team works hard to provide a safe and supportive environment and top-notch learning opportunity for every student. We value our partnership between home and school, so please reach out if you would like to visit Kennedy and witness some of the many amazing things going on in our building. We love showing off the great work happening here! I am excited for a successful year as we work together in helping your child become the best version of themselves and live a happy, healthy, helpful life. Go Cardinals!



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STUDENT DATA PRIVACY NOTICE

Willmar Public Schools uses a variety of digital resources and tools to support student learning. For reference purposes, we refer to these resources and tools as “Technology Providers,” as they are defined in Minnesota statute. Our district takes great pride in ensuring that student information and academic data is protected to the highest of standards. Our technology/teaching and learning staff routinely evaluate providers utilized for digital assessment, online testing, digital curriculum resources, and digital curriculum activities to ensure that contractual requirements that ensure the safety.

As a part of our ongoing process to inform you of the safety and privacy of the data that is held by technology providers utilized by our district, we have made a listing of the Technology Providers utilized within the school district available for your review. Included in this listing you will find the data elements that the resource stores and utilizes as well as the grade levels in which the resource is authorized for use in.

Please visit:
<http://www.willmar.k12.mn.us/SDP> to
access the current listing of Technology
Providers that we utilize.

Please reach out to Jason Hulstein by
Email hulsteinj@willmar.k12.mn.us or
phone 320-231-8545 for additional

questions regarding specific digital tools used in classrooms, or if you would like to arrange for an in person appointment to inspect any of our Technology Provider contracts.

PARENT SQUARE

**We've Made the Move to
ParentSquare!**



We're excited to share that our school has officially transitioned from Remind to ParentSquare for school-to-home communication. ParentSquare makes it easy for families to stay connected and receive important updates, reminders, announcements, and messages from school—all in one convenient place. Please download the free ParentSquare app on your smartphone to make sure you don't miss important information from your child's school. We look forward to staying connected with our families through ParentSquare!



A NOTE FROM NURSING

Please send an extra change of clothing with your students to keep in their locker. This helps in case of accidents, spills and if clothes get soiled at Recess. We do not provide extra clothing.



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SCHOOL-DAY ACTIVITY REMINDER

Due to limited space and the importance of preserving learning time, school-aged siblings may not be signed out to attend a Kennedy specific school activity during the school day. (Ex. Informance programs, Songfest, Field Day, etc.) Thank you for your understanding and support!

CLASSROOM TREATS

At Kennedy, parents have the option to place an order for your students Birthday and/or classroom celebrations. To place an order please contact Food and Nutrition Services at: 320-231-8526. Orders must be placed 7 working days in advance.

You may provide birthday treats for you students. However treats brought in have to be Store bought or from a licensed bakery with ingredients listed.

We are unable to have cakes, cupcakes and cookies are a great option.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

To access our Student Handbook, please scan the QR code:



VISITOR AND VOLUNTEER POLICY

For the safety and security of all students, we require a picture ID to be shown before allowing individuals to enter the building. A picture ID is also required to be shown at the time of signing a student out, or when an individual is requesting to see or speak to a student. We DO NOT call students down to the office after 3:00 PM. A background check and Bully Training is required for all volunteers. This can be found on our school website.



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TITLE COMPACT

Title Compact Agreement

Please view our Title Compact Agreement
by clicking the link below or scanning
the QR code.

View the Title Compact Agreement



SCAN ME

LUNCH WITH YOUR STUDENT

You are welcome to join your student
for lunch during their assigned lunch
time. Please bring a picture ID and Cash
if you plan to eat lunch with your
student.

If you choose to bring restaurant food
for your child during the school day,
please note that students must eat their
meal during their assigned lunch period.
To minimize disruptions to the cafeteria
and classrooms, we kindly ask that you
enjoy the meal together at the
designated tables located in the front
lobby. Thank you.

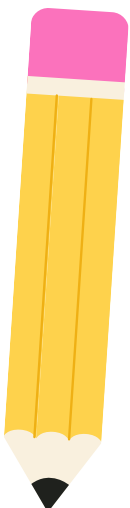
TITLE I FAMILY SURVEY PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY!

Your feedback is important to us!

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO TAKE THE SURVEY**

Thank you for sharing your feedback!



SCHOOL WIDE DRILLS

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SCHOOL WIDE DRILLS

Kennedy staff received training in both ALICE and SRP (Standard Response Protocol). The ALICE acronym is listed below and SRP information is pictured to the right. The basis of both safety guides is for the adults to make informed decisions to get themselves and students to safety.

As a school, we practice multiple fire and lockdown drills in a year. Fire drills will be conducted at various times throughout the day in the hopes that adults and students are aware of the different places to leave the building and where the different "safe zones" are outside. Lockdown drills will be practiced with students and will be focused on staying in the room with the lights down, door locked, and being quiet. We DO NOT use the terminology of "active shooter", etc.

In the event of a school emergency, information will be sent via ParentSquare and/or email. It will be important to follow the directions/information in those communications

LOCKDOWN DRILL DATES:

- September 17th, 2026
- November 24th, 2026
- December 21st, 2026
- January 27th, 2027
- March 30th, 2027

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Close the door
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS

Return to inside of building
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors
Lock outside doors
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door for anyone

ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible
Lock the classroom door
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door for anyone
ALICE



EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to
If possible, bring your phone
Follow instructions

ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured student or adults



SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS

Evacuate to shelter area
Seal the room
Drop, cover and hold

ADULTS

Lead safety strategy
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured student or adults



ALICE RESPONSE:

A-Alert, first notification of Danger.

L-Lockdown, If evacuation is not an option

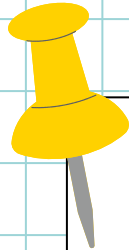
I-Inform, Communicate real time info.

C-Counter, as a last resort.

E-Evacuate, when safe to do so, run from danger using nontraditional exits if necessary.

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CONTACT US:

KENNEDY ELEMENTARY

824 7th St SW
Willmar, MN 56201
www.willmar.k12.mn.us

Main Office: 320-214-6688
Nurse Line: 320-214-6682
Attendance Line: 320-214-6681
Attendance Email:
kennattendance@willmar.k12.mn.us

Cardinal Place
(Before/After School Childcare)
320-214-6680
Willmar Bus Service
320-235-2110
Email: school@willmarbus.com

