

Kennedy PTO - Principal's Welcome!

September 16, 2025, 6:30-7:30 PM, Kennedy School Library

Welcome & Introductions

1. Reach us at JFKcougarsPTO@gmail.com
2. Sign up for the PTO mailing list at our website: 
3. New name ideas: **Kennedy Families & Friends; Kennedy Community Circle**
 - a. If you have a name suggestion, send an email to: JFKcougarsPTO@gmail.com

The PTO's work at Kennedy

1. We host free family events to help students and their families feel like they are part of the school community.
2. We support school staff with grants, meals, appreciation days, and more.
3. We serve families by hosting guest speakers at our monthly meetings, free community meals, and supplying gift cards for the social workers to distribute.
4. We advocate for school needs with the district or school board.
5. We fundraise in order to be able to provide:
 - a. Free community events
 - b. Staff appreciation
 - c. Help for Kennedy families in need
 - d. Classroom grants
 - e. Funds for programs that benefit students

Upcoming events and fundraisers

1. Bucky Books – \$35 each, orders accepted through Nov. 1. Use QR code → 
2. Oct. 28 - PTO Meeting: Food Services & Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
3. Nov. 18 - PTO Meeting: Southeast Area Plan - Recommendations & Feedback

Seeking volunteers - can you help?

1. Outdoor Education / Nature Play committee
 - a. [Effort for outdoor learning space at Kennedy](#)
2. Grants:
 - a. Help with PTO applying for grants
 - b. Review classroom grant applications from teachers
3. Event planning
4. Staff appreciation
5. Gardening
6. [Organizing winter clothes/gear closet](#)
7. Social media

Guest Speakers

Kennedy Principal **Vanessa Kent** and Assistant Principal **Tracey Rosin**
vskent@madison.k12.wi.us tlrosin@madison.k12.wi.us

Vanessa Kent - Principal, at Kennedy for five years
Tracey Rosin - Assistant Principal, 33 years in education

24-25 wins

- Hit attendance goal of an average of 90% or better
- 3rd grade grew 15% in math from 2024 to 2025
- 9 students tested out of needing ESL services

Rooms for 25-26 due to 4K moving to Elvehjem

- Resource room
- Oasis (calm down, regulation space)
- Community Space
- REACH (maker space/STEM) room

Character strong - social emotional learning

Fill out attendance survey

Title School

- Added a full time interventionist
- Able to make a part time ESL position full time to support K-1 literacy
- 2 full time hourly staff to help with specials, lunch/recess, intervention, etc.

Who to Contact:

- Always start with your child's teacher, unless it's an issue with the teacher than you are welcome to reach out to admin (although still encourage you to try the teacher first)
- MTSS (Multi tiered systems of support) is the problem solving structure: email both people. If you want to set up a problem solving meeting.

(Grid of staff contacts available in powerpoint)

Note: Only 7 staff left Kennedy this year

Q&A

What should parents be advocating for as it relates to the boundary study?

- A lot of new development in the Kennedy attendance area - other schools are land locked
- Land in Kennedy area, would relieve a lot of tension if school was built

3rd grade mixing will be during the day, not changing teachers

Hiring for classroom aides?

Area for advocacy, hoping 3rd Friday count will provide data for advocacy

Positive comments for Parent Square

School lunch and breakfast

- Learning routines, lines are going down, encourage students to consider lunch
- Lose money if not enough kids take lunch
- Meeting with sustainability contact regarding packaging

Is there a set number of recesses per grade?

- DPI requirement is 20 minutes a day
- Kennedy does 30 minutes - some grades split it into 2 different recesses

Where will standard reading tests take place?

- In added spaces