



# Kennett High School



Principal's Report  
September 12, 2016

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## Theme for the Year

1. The students and staff have gotten off to an incredibly smooth, positive start this year. Our theme for this year is "The Eagle Way" which we are patterning after the New England Patriots concept of the Patriot Way. There are many similarities between the two organizations from the new facilities to a pattern of sustained success and a commitment to community service and excellence. In its simplest form the Eagle Way can be explained with 4 basic tenants; Be Kind, Be responsible, Be Respectful and a Commitment to Sustained Excellence.

## Priorities

1. The *Day Time Learning Lab – Drop In Model* is a brand new concept that is being launched in the 2016-17 school year. It is based on the success of our After School Learning Lab which was put in place last school year. There will be a room (or rooms) available each block, (with the exception of White 1 and White 5), where students can access individual help with assignments. This will be open to all students, but the prediction is that it will be utilized primarily by students with an IEP or 504 Plan. Students requesting help can ask for a pass to take a specific assignment to the Learning Lab. The expectation is that students will only stay for a short time, (20-30 minutes), receive the help they need and then return to class. There is no credit earned for this or grades given. There will be ongoing documentation of numbers of students that access this option, types of work that is being supported, length of time students are staying, and which blocks are more frequently being accessed. Learning Lab will be staffed by a combination of special educators and paraprofessionals. It is also the hope that general educators may be available during some of these blocks to offer their expertise as well.
2. We have made an enhancement to our academic support classes this year. This scheduled class is an 80 minute block offered every other day with the first half, (possibly third), of the class will now include a formal curriculum designed to instruct and build executive function skills which include, but are not limited to, study skills, organization, prioritizing, note taking, collaboration, researching, planning, initiating and sustaining focus and attention. The main objective is to develop skills needed to be a successful student. In addition, this block affords time to work on individual goals that may include self- advocacy skills, independence and transition planning for post-secondary pursuits. These are enduring understandings of the special education department that are imparted to all students with special needs at KHS. The second portion of this block functions as a supported study hall where students can complete homework assignments with the option of adults that can answer questions, or help with understanding directions, reading materials, or studying for upcoming tests.

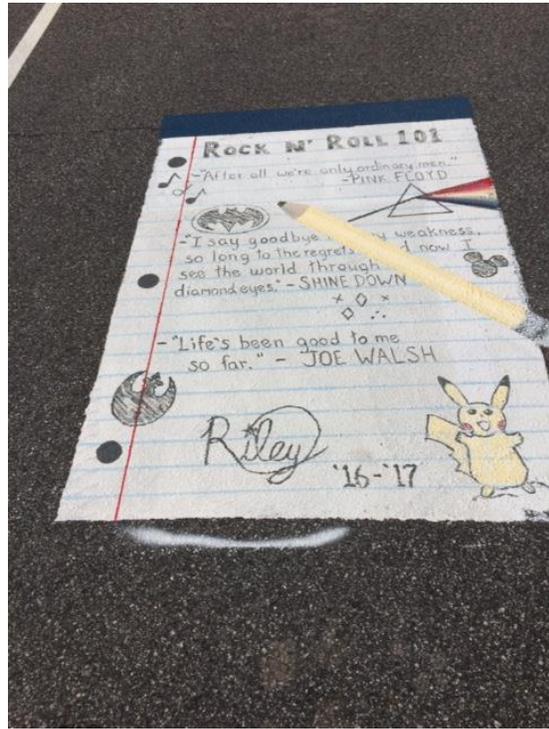
Students are graded on daily performance and can earn a 1/2 credit per semester that they are enrolled in this class.

3. We have brought back an old tradition of class advisors, assigning at least one class advisor for each class. Several teachers have stepped forward and volunteered and activity accounts have been created for each class. The advisors will assist the class with fundraising and spirit activities during the year. The goal is to have each class raise enough to significantly reduce the price of a prom ticket, leave a class gift or plan a class wide picnic or celebratory event when they are seniors. It has been many years since we have had class advisors and we believe this will continue to build school spirit throughout Kennett High School.

## **Student & Staff Accomplishments**

1. KHS continues to extend student achievement at the highest levels with our advanced placement courses. We had 84 students take 164 AP exams last spring which is the largest number AP exams taken by Kennett students. Kennett students with AP exam scores of 3+ was 71% which was slightly below the state average of 72 % although it bested the global average of 60%.
2. The Kennett High School open house has been scheduled for September 27th from 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm. Notification of the event will be sent to parents prior to the event and we will also place a message in the local paper and place a PSA with local radio stations.
3. The Kennett SAT test scores for last year's junior class, now used as now our states standardized test, totaled 1026 with the state average coming in at 1027. Our scores, on par with the state average, were 55 point above the national test average of 971. The disaggregated test data results provided by the College Board will now be used by our staff as we focus and strengthen specific skill sets during this year.
4. Homecoming is scheduled for the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The student council has planned a full week of school activities with the homecoming athletic events scheduled for Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> and this year's exciting homecoming dance to be held on Saturday evening, October 8<sup>th</sup>.
5. Olivia Chretien Auditioned and was named to the All American Dance Team for the second year in a row. The All American Team is comprised of the Top 15% of dancers from across the nation's high schools and provides them with the opportunity to perform throughout the year all over the world.
6. This summer Nicole LaRoche, Riley Parkhurst, Thomas Stafford, & Finn Van Rossum traveled to the University of Missouri Kansas City to participate in a week-long jazz camp in preparation for this year's Stage Band adventures. Additionally, Max Belkin, Andy Belle-Isle, and Sam Cawley attended the Mobile Percussion Seminar for 5 days at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, in preparation for this year's Drum line endeavors, and finally, Finn Van Rossum, Kevin Lyman, and Snowden O'Neill pperformed with the Shine All Star Marching Band during the 63nd Annual Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl football game between New Hampshire and Vermont.

7. The student council has launched a new KHS tradition which allows each student to personalize their parking space. Students continue to decorate them daily with Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> as the completion date to be eligible for the gold, silver or bronze prize. The artistic talent and fun whimsical designs are a nice enhancement to our campus.
8. If you have not already viewed the aerial tour of the Kennett campus we urge you to check out this video posted on our web site at [WWW.KHSMWV.com](http://WWW.KHSMWV.com). This 30 second video created by Kennett alumni Abbie Gutowski provides a wonderful vantage point of our beautiful facility.
9. Work on the varsity baseball and softball fields was completed in August. Trees were removed to allow more sunlight onto the softball field and help with the drying of the turf and infield, while the entire dirt infield of the varsity baseball field was replaced to assist with better drainage. With the help and generosity of the Millen Foundation and the Mount Washington Garden Club, the entry way to Millen Stadium has been reconstructed. Additional flower beds, better access into and out of the stadium, and repositioning of the gate and Millen Stadium sign were all part of the project.
10. Fall sports are off and running. 265 students are participating in the nine fall sports teams: cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, mountain bike, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, and volleyball.
11. KHS, Life of an Athlete students are working with the staff members who are part of the 5-2-1-0 Let's Go initiative, to plan a Field Day for the freshmen which will be held during blocks 3 & 4 on September 22, 2016. Fitness, fun and student bonding are all goals of this worthy initiative.
12. As part of Homecoming Week, a Homecoming Tailgate event is being planned for October 7<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon and early evening before the athletic festivities. Food, raffles, contests/games, and a yard sale of Kennett athletics gear are slated to be part of the festivities.
13. We just completed our latest tally of Kennett Alumni working at Kennett High and are pleased and proud to report we now have 27 alumni now working in the building. They certainly help our current students understand the long proud history we have and as a school community.
14. The freshman transition day on August 30<sup>th</sup> was a tremendous success with over 90% of the incoming freshman attending. We had almost 40 current Kennett students from the National Honor Society, Key Club, Future Educators and Student Council volunteer to help with the transition and to make our newest Eagles feel welcome and comfortable in their new "home" The students participated in a number of icebreaker activities to ease their anxieties, met their new team members, teachers and toured their class schedule. The benefits were evident as the first day for all students was smooth, uneventful and lots of laughter and smiles all around.



Student parking space artists



KHS Alumni in house!!!

