

March 2023

# John F. Kennedy Middle School



## Respect, Diligence, Dignity

3/9/2023

JFK School Community,

Greetings,

We hope our March newsletter finds you and your family doing well. February was a great month for JFK! Below you will find updates and information pertaining to the weeks ahead.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Berrios'.

Andrew Berrios, Ed.D.  
Principal

\*Upcoming events are located on our school calendar posted on our school's homepage [HERE](#).



We make a difference in Enfield - every child, every day.

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CT Smart Funds Continued

The Enfield Public Schools Nutrition Services has been authorized to offer free meals for the remainder of the school year. If students take advantage of this program for breakfast, they must collect a meal to remain in the cafeteria.



SBAC/NGSS Testing Schedule

We will administer state assessments starting at the end of March. Utilizing an adjusted bell schedule, we want to ensure adequate time is provided for our testing sessions. If you would like more information on state assessments, it is available [HERE](#). **We request that students report to school with headphones or earbuds with a jack plug (hard-lined) connection for our testing dates. Due to test security, we cannot permit the use of wireless listening devices while testing (Bluetooth connections are not permitted).** Our EPS testing letter is attached at the end of this newsletter. Our testing dates are listed below:

Grade/s	Content/Assessment	Test Date
6, 7, 8	ELA SBAC	3/28/2023
8	Science NGSS	4/4/2023
6, 7, 8	Math (CAT)	5/2/2023
6, 7, 8	Math (PT)	5/9/2023

## Requesting Support with Digital Distractions and Social Media

We are requesting your support with personal devices and social media. Students are provided with a locker to secure their personal devices until the end of the school day. Doing so removes theft, inappropriate use, and damage of personal devices from the school day. We are continually running into challenges with cell phones, smart watches, and airpods. We have communicated our expectations to students repeatedly throughout the school year; however, it continues to be an issue.

We understand that remaining connected is a new societal norm but please utilize the proper channels during school hours. For example, if your child is not feeling well, we kindly request that they utilize the school nurse. Our nurses will assess your child and reach out with any concerns. If there is a non-health related reason that your child needs to contact you during school hours, please have them utilize a house office to do so. We appreciate your support in reinforcing our school procedures.



On occasion airpods/earpods are permitted in the classroom setting, this is for educational purposes and intended to be utilized with the EPS-issued iPad. If not explicitly permitted by the educator for instructional purposes, they are not to be worn. The teaching and learning process may look different than it did just a decade ago; however, one item that has not changed and remains at the center of this process is *communication*. We cannot properly educate your child if they are not tuned-in to classroom instruction.

A larger issue facing our school community and nation is adolescent use of social media and screentime. We are happy that [Connecticut has taken steps](#) to hold large tech firms accountable in working toward



passing legislation that would regulate minors accessing social media. Essentially, parents/guardians would need to grant access for their *minor* to create and access social media accounts. We strongly support this movement as predatory targeting of minors within the digital landscape is prevalent. Furthermore, we sometimes find that middle school aged children get

wrapped up in negative digital citizenship (our curriculum addresses digital citizenship). These interactions transpire 24 hours a day 365 days a year – managing and/or regulating these interactions, moreover their implications, is *extremely* challenging. The administrative time spent investigating avoidable and perpetuated interactions outside of our control is cumbersome. Inevitably, our resources and energy are detracted from the *vital* work at hand.



Our public schools welcome *all* - we fully embrace and have dedicated our professional careers to educating the future of our nation. As 1,200 students enter our school doors, every child is different and faces varying circumstances. We attempt to mitigate and proactively curtail negative behaviors that may prove detrimental to our school community: this is not an easy endeavor. We strive to keep the focus on educating your child. We want to provide them with the skills and foundation to experience success in high school and beyond. We want to do this in a positive, educationally conducive learning environment. As *educators*, we feel keeping you informed as *parents* of items that are developing or proving detrimental to *our* school community is essential.

If you are not already doing so, we urge you to monitor your child's social media presence and digital interactions for their protection. Lastly, your support with the above-mentioned items is vital to our success as a school community and beyond appreciated by our faculty and staff.

## Health Screenings

Notifications are going out from our [Pupil Services Department](#) providing notification of our state-mandated annual health screenings ([Sec. 10-214](#)). These preventative health screenings are conducted by our nurses. Any questions, please [contact Nurse Stack](#) directly.



## Yearbook

If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, please utilize code: 11394223 [HERE](#).

## Important Dates

- Wednesday 3/8
  - PTO meeting (main office)
- Friday 3/10
  - Term 3 progress reports
- Sunday 3/12
  - Day light saving time
- Monday 3/13 – 17
  - Kindness chain challenge ([more info.](#))
- Tuesday 3/14
  - Club picture day
  - Battle of the Patriots Basketball Game (3 – 4:15 pm)
    - Tickets must be purchased to attend this after school event
    - Transportation must be arranged
- Wednesday 3/15
  - Early release schedule (1 pm dismissal with lunch served)
- Friday 3/17
  - Field trip – Orchestra visiting Enfield High School for concert (grades 6, 7, 8 orchestra members)
- Monday 3/20
  - Field trip – Band visiting Enfield High School for concert (grades 6, 7, 8 band members)
- Tuesday 3/21
  - Rock your socks ([more info.](#))

- Wednesday 3/22
  - National Junior Honor Society Ceremony
    - 6:30 pm in our auditorium
    - Park on the auditorium side of the building (not main office side)
- Saturday 3/25
  - Choralfest
    - Enfield High School (3:30 pm)
- Tuesday 3/28
  - SBAC ELA testing (grades 6, 7, 8)

\*All school events are located on our [school calendar](#). Please look ahead for our end of year events.

## Student Spotlight & School Spirt

### Kindness Chain



*Kindness* 🍀

🍀 *Chain Challenge*

Each time you complete an act of kindness, write it on a kindness strip. Each kindness strip will create a paper chain!!!

**Let's see how long we can make it!**

Challenge Dates: March 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

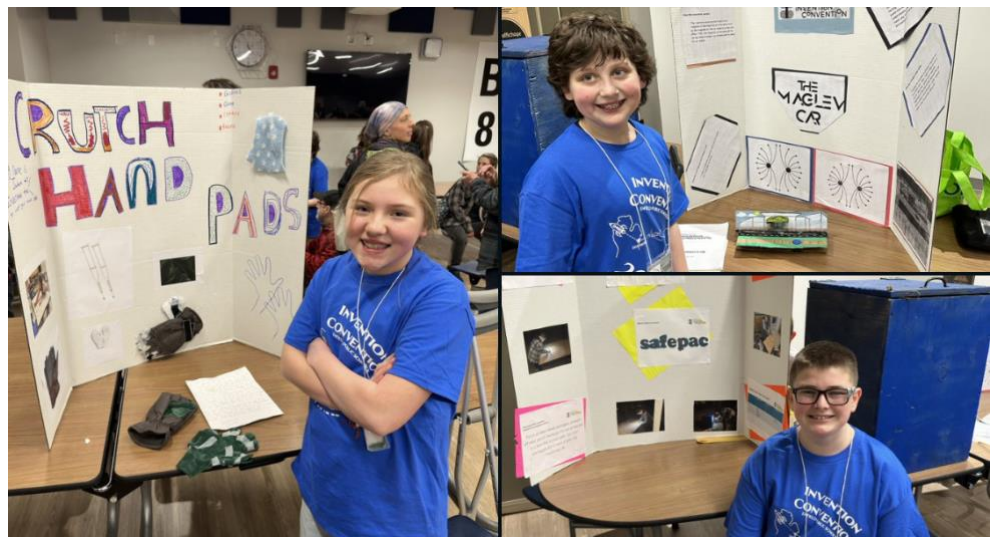
See your homeroom teacher for a strip!

## Rock Your Socks



## Invention Convention

JFK students shared their inventions at our annual invention convention. We applaud their creativity and time as they engineered some cutting-edge prototypes. A special thank you to our STEAM department, parents/guardians, and judges for supporting this event. Please see the invention convention video [HERE](#).



## Robotics Team

JFK's robotics team competed in several events this year. The team has taken full advantage of their STEAM labs by developing some intricate robots for their competitions. We are proud of their creativity and passion. A special thank you to Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Behling for leading our students.

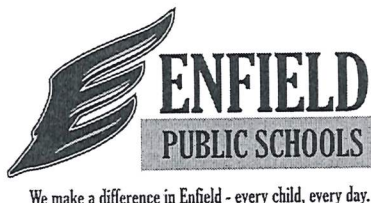


## Music Festival

The music department is so proud of the students pictured here who participated in the CMEA Eastern Regional festival this weekend. These students auditioned in December and joined hundreds of other selected students from all over the state to perform in band, choir, orchestra, and jazz band concerts at RHAM on Sunday. If you see any of them, please congratulate them! We are very proud!







## ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1010 ENFIELD STREET • ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082  
TEL: 860.253.6500 • FAX: 860.253.6510

March 7, 2023

Dear Enfield Families,

This spring the Smarter Balanced Assessments in English/literacy and mathematics will be administered to all students in Grades 3 through 8 as part of Connecticut's summative assessment system. The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment will be administered to students in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Grade 11 students will also participate in the SAT School Day testing. The assessment windows for these tests will be opening soon. Individual schools will provide specific information as to the testing dates for your student(s).

Teachers and administrators anticipate that the analysis of assessment results will provide valuable information about students' instructional needs and strengths, as well as the ongoing effectiveness of our program and pedagogy in Enfield.

Sincerely,

Christopher Drezek  
Superintendent

Michelle Middleton  
Chief Academic Officer



Enfield Public Schools Music Department presents...

# THE 17TH ANNUAL STRINGS FESTIVAL

Featuring our Strings students  
from Grades 5-12!

Free to the public.

17 | 7:00pm  
MARCH

Enfield High School  
Auditorium

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# YOUTH CULINARY INSTITUTE 2023

## LITTLE chefs



### Youth Basic Culinary Institute 2023

**Fee: \$200 - 10 students per class**

**Week 1 July 10<sup>th</sup>-July 14<sup>th</sup> - Youth Basic Culinary Camp (Grades 5-8)**

**Monday-Friday 9 am-2 pm - Bring Take Home Containers, Lunch & Water Bottle**

**Instructor: Chef Joshua Ogradowski (Chef Josh)**

Introductory Culinary Arts: In this fun, hands-on experience-based course, students will explore and strengthen their culinary skills. We will explore the commercial kitchen cooking various recipes with different themes daily. While cooking, students will learn and practice baking, sauteing, pan frying, whisking, folding, stirring and knife skills just to name a few. Chef Josh will explain kitchen safety and sanitation, menu development, principles of hospitality, plating, garnishing plus more. If your young chef has a passion for cooking and baking, please join us for this unique program! Students of all culinary skill levels are accepted but students must follow directions and be safe in the kitchen as directed by the chef.



### International Youth Culinary Institute 2023

**Fee: \$250 - 10 students per class**

**Week 2 July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 21<sup>st</sup> - International Youth Culinary Camp (Grades 5-8)**

**Monday-Friday 9 am-2 pm - Bring Take Home Containers, Lunch & Water Bottle**

**Instructor: Chef Joshua Ogradowski (Chef Josh)**

Introductory Culinary Arts: In this fun, hands-on experience-based course, students will explore and strengthen their culinary skills. We will explore the commercial kitchen cooking various recipes with different themes daily. While cooking, students will learn and practice baking, sauteing, pan frying, whisking, folding, stirring and knife skills just to name a few. Chef Josh will explain kitchen safety and sanitation, menu development, principles of hospitality, plating, garnishing plus more. If your young chef has a passion for cooking and baking, please join us for this unique program! Students of all culinary skill levels are accepted but students must follow directions and be safe in the kitchen as directed by the chef.

## Youth Baking & Pastry Institute 2023

**Fee: \$200 - 10 students per class**

**Week 3 July 24<sup>th</sup>-July 28<sup>th</sup> - Youth Culinary Camp (Grades 5-8)**

**Monday-Friday 9 am-2 pm - Bring Take Home Containers, Lunch & Water Bottle**

**Instructor: Chef Joshua Ogradowski (Chef Josh)**

Introductory Culinary Arts: In this fun, hands-on experience-based course, students will explore and strengthen their baking & pastry skills. We will explore the commercial kitchen cooking various recipes with different themes daily. While baking, student explore the concepts of cookies, cakes, quick breads, yeast breads and share a family pastry basket on Friday. Chef Josh will explain kitchen safety and sanitation, menu development, principles of hospitality, pastry techniques, plating and more. If your young chef has a passion for baking, please join us for this unique program! Students of all culinary skill levels are accepted but students must follow directions and be safe in the kitchen as directed by the chef.



**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY! - Courses Fill Quickly!**  
1) Go to: [Enfield.RevTrak.net/Adult-Education](https://enfield.revtrak.net/Adult-Education)  
2) Select the Desired Course from the List  
3) Select "Click Here to Register for This Class"  
4) Follow Instructions for New (or) Returning Customers

