

THE WORD



"Let the word go forth... the torch has been passed." - President John F. Kennedy

1973 - 2015

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John F. Kennedy High School 11254 Gothic Ave. Granada Hills, CA 91344

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Principal's Welcome

Dear students, parents and friends,

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school by reading this issue of the Word. As you read about the many activities and events that happen at Kennedy High School, keep in mind that you are the key to making this year special through your involvement and participation in clubs, sports and community activities.

As the principal of Kennedy High School, it is my goal and expectation that our school will be a safe, clean and fun place to learn and work. In order for me to achieve that goal, I need each and every person that attends, works and cares about our school to not forget what they learned at home and/or in school.

The learning that I am referring to is:

1. Pick up after yourself in and outside of the classroom.
2. When things get tough, don't quit.
3. Ask for help when you don't understand something.
4. Do something nice for someone each and every day.
5. Respect yourself and others.

Remember, my doors are always open to you for any reason.

Sincerely,
Dr. Richard J. Chavez



Want more of The Word?

To read more, go to www.thekennedyword.com

New design coming soon!



UPCOMING EVENTS:



Rosh Hashanah: 9/25 - No School

Alex's Lemonade Stand Cancer Charity Fundraiser: 9/23 - 9/25

Kennedy vs. Canoga Park Pep Rally and Football Game: 9/26

Kennedy College Night: 10/2

Spirit Week: 10/06-10/10

Homecoming Pep Rally: 10/10

Homecoming Parade and Homecoming Game: 10/10

Homecoming Dance: 10/11

SAT: 10/11

ACT: 10/25

Kennedy vs. San Fernando Pep Rally and Football Game and Halloween: 10/31

Introducing New Policies for Kennedy

The facts about the new school requirements

by **Brianna Sanchez**

Story Editor

Community service, advisory, and new graduation requirements will now be mandatory for all students at Kennedy High School according to the new school policies.

The addition of community service hours was introduced to Kennedy High School by Principal Richard Chavez. The plan is to make the senior class complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service. Juniors must have 200 hours, sophomores must have 300 hours, and freshmen must have 400 hours by the time that they graduate if they plan on walking on stage.

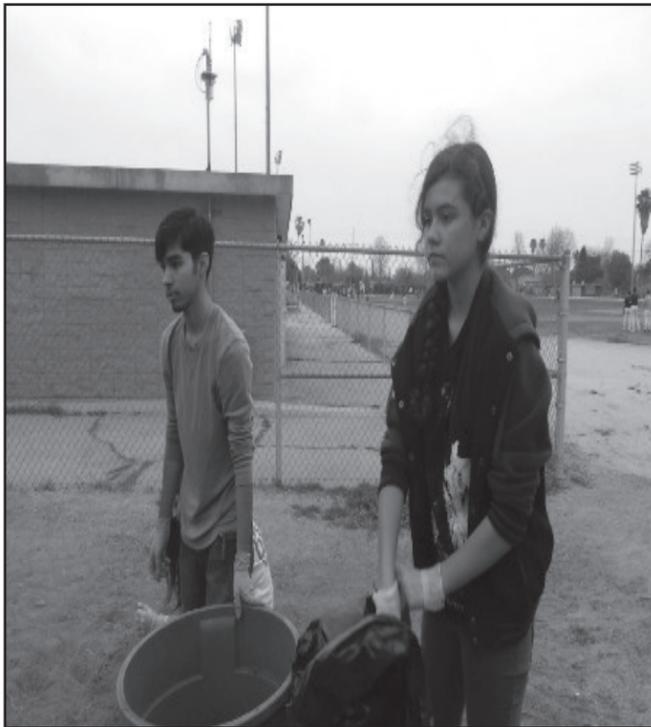
"The idea is to do something, whether it is done outside or inside school grounds. How are students investing their time?" explains Principal Chavez. Colleges not only look at a student's grades and SAT/ACT scores but also their extracurricular activities. It is for this reason that Principal Chavez wants to assist students in building their college applications.

Though new to Kennedy, the requirements aren't new to the district. According to the principal, as long as a student isn't compensated for something they do in their community, it counts.

One of the main goals of the Kennedy administration is to make sure that students are college and career ready by the time that they finish high school. Graduation requirements continue to consist of seniors having 230 credits and passing the

CAHSEE, but have lengthened from the last school year. This includes the portfolio that the class of 2015 must create.

What is essential to the portfolios are



Students working on their service hours

not yet finalized. So far it consists of a personal statement, a cover letter, a resume, 100 hours of community service, certificates and awards, and much more.

"I just want students to be well-rounded because that is essential to colleges when they look at applications," stated the principal.

Another addition to the 2014-2015 school year is advisory, which replaced what used

to be Cougar Time. Homeroom last year did not count as a credit class. Advisory will be equivalent to two and a half credits per semester. The reason behind this is to give recognition to the work that students must do in order to receive credit.

Advisory was purposely created to meet certain goals that the school is attempting to achieve. Students are expected to know, understand, and meet the standards of the Common Core. Advisory is expected to help students achieve this by offering time in the morning as a homework help center. W.O.W. words, silent sustained reading (SSR), and ice breakers are all activities that students could work on. Breakfast in the classroom will also be added to the advisory agenda. For seniors, the time in advisory can also be used to work on portfolios and to obtain information in upcoming senior meetings.

The process that the new school policies have gone through is called school based management. The LAUSD has issued their policy. This serves as the framework that schools must build their own policies on. A school can add more regulations if they wish, but it can't have less than what the district calls for. The new school policies were decided by the administration and department chairs. Principal Chavez is open to any feedback. He would also like to increase parental involvement to make the school more organized and efficient.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page 2: Assistant Principal's Welcome, School Dress Code

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