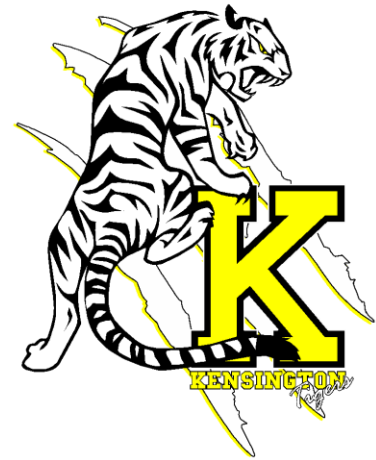


**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
KENSINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**

2501 Coral Street
Philadelphia, PA 19125

Dr. José Lebrón, Principal
Mrs. Jamie Clark, Assistant Principal
Phone: 215-400-7700
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To: All Parents and Guardians
From: Dr. José E. Lebrón, Principal
Date: August 31, 2020
Re: Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year

Parents, welcome to the 2020-21 school year! We are excited as we anticipate the virtual arrival of our students and our parents for an eventful year of learning and achievement. Our goal is to establish an environment where our students will be nourished, valued, supported and loved in order to prepare them for the future so they can achieve their dreams. Attendance, academics, involvement, and responsibility are essential keys to a productive school year. However, we recognize that we cannot do this alone. Your support as parents is vital if we're going to be successful. We look forward to your active participation in order to provide our students with the best education in the city.

We want to start off by sharing some very important items of information with you. As you know, we will be beginning this school year 100% ONLINE. The current district plan states that we will be online for first quarter, and transition to a hybrid of online and in person learning in mid-November. We recognize, however, that COVID-19 may cause us to change course and make adjustments. Please know that we will continue to work diligently to keep you up-to-date and fully apprised as changes develop via our automated calling system, our school website (<https://kensingtonhs.philasd.org/>), and our school Instagram page (@kensingtonhighschool).

1. First Day of School

The first day of school for all grades is Wednesday, September 2, 2020. It is expected that students log in EVERY DAY at 8:00 a.m. to participate in daily morning meetings with their advisors. They will then have a regular schedule of classes that incorporate both face to face digital learning experiences with their teachers, and online assignments that students will complete independently. It is *critically important* that students log in *every day*! Please remind your student(s) to do so, and if there are any issues with computer access or internet connectivity, let us know so that we can provide support as quickly as possible.

2. Chromebook Distribution

If your student needs a computer for online learning, you can pick them up at THREE locations, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The locations are: 440 North Broad Street (Central), Fitzpatrick Annex (Northeast), and MLK High School (Northwest)

3. Freshmen Orientation

Freshmen Orientation for all incoming 9th grade students will take place on Friday, August 28, 2020, from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm, online. The link for the meeting will be posted on our website by August 27, 2020. **We highly recommend orientation for all freshmen!** Students and parents will be provided with information related to expectations, norms, policies, programs, and procedures.

4. Uniform

Uniforms are NOT required for online learning, but WILL be required when we return to the building for face to face instruction. The uniform will consist of a white dress shirt or polo shirt, black pants or skirts, black and gold striped tie, and black shoes. All students are **required to be in full uniform** when they report to school every day. The uniform may be purchased from any clothing store that's convenient for you. However, we recommend that you get the uniform from **Flynn and O'Hara** (6801 Frankford Avenue, Unit G, Philadelphia, PA 19135) since you will be able to purchase the complete uniform there.

5. Half Day Schedule

Throughout September and October, the district is requiring three hours of professional development for all staff every Friday from 12-3 p.m. This means that on Fridays, students will *only* have face to face learning opportunities with teachers in the morning, from 8-12. In the afternoon, students will have time to complete asynchronous assignments on their own.

6. Online Learning

We recognize that online learning presents many challenges for students and families. Here are a few tips and reminders that we hope you'll find helpful as you prepare for the start of school.

- **Online code of conduct:** Students will receive a digital Student Handbook during the first week of school. This will outline important rules and expectations, including the need to be appropriately dressed when on camera, the need to use school-appropriate language in virtual learning spaces, and where to go for help with technology issues or other concerns.
- **Books and materials:** We will schedule a distribution date in September for students to come to the school, observing social distancing and all other COVID safety protocols, to pick up necessary textbooks and instructional supplies. This date will be published on our website and Instagram pages, and will be shared via students' Google Classroom pages.
- **Learning at home:** To maximize students' learning and minimize instructional disruptions, we ask that, to the best of your ability, students have a quiet place to log into their online classes, with camera access so they can be seen by their teacher and classmates, and headphones to minimize any external noise. We recognize this may not always be possible, but share it with you as a recommendation to help support your student's success with online learning.
- **Communication:** All teachers will have email access, and many will also share a phone number to make contacting them easier. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Be sure to log into your Parent Portal regularly to monitor your student's grades and attendance records, and let us know how we can support you. We are here to help!

7. September Calendar

- Aug. 24, 2020 - First Day for Staff
- Aug. 28, 11:30 to 12:00 pm - Freshman Orientation
- Sept. 2, 2020 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for students
- Sept. 4, 2020 – HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS; HALF DAY PD for staff
- Sept. 7, 2020 - Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- Sept. 28, 2019 – Yom Kippur – NO SCHOOL

As always, thank you for entrusting us with your child's education, and for all your support as we work to make high school meaningful, relevant, and engaging for all our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. José Lebrón, Principal