

Korematsu Middle School

Phoenix Expectations: Respectful, Responsible, Resilient, Allies

AUGUST 26, 2024



Hello KMS community

With the first week of school behind us, we want to thank our teachers for welcoming students back to school and getting the year rolling. Thank you families for getting students to school on time and ready for learning.

Korematsu welcomed 710 students this year. We have increased our enrollment! This is a great problem to have, but we will need to add class sections in the coming days to accommodate these numbers. Our new 7th grade class is comprised of 374 students! This is way over the initial projections we received in Spring. Adding sections does mean we will need to change a number of student schedules. We will send a community update before these changes are made.

Families, we ask that parents not walk onto campus. Please remember to drop your student in the designated areas and follow our clockwise traffic pattern. Because we are located in a residential community pick-up and drop-off is extremely congested. I encourage you to drop students on Norvell or Lawrence streets and **avoid Donal Ave. as much as possible**. Last year we saw a lot of unsafe driving and do not want a repeat of these traffic conditions. Always drive in the clockwise pattern and never drop a student off and have them move across the street in traffic to get to campus. Please let them out and then move on to make room for the next car. And please do not park in front of our neighbor's driveways.

Students will begin taking the iReady diagnostic assessments this week for Reading and Math. These assessments provide teachers with critical data when planning standards based lessons.

Hopefully everyone is getting back into the swing of things for the 2024-2025 school year.

Class Schedules and Schedule Changes

Korematsu is currently showing more than 65 students over our initial projections. There is a high likelihood that classes will shift over the next few days/weeks.



Our School Counselors are best equipped to support students with scheduling issues. We are welcoming two new counselors to KMS this year. Here are the current assignments.

Ms. Cruger-Hansen - Last Names A - La

Ms. Sierra Borbon - Last Names Le - Z

At our grade level assembly last Thursday students received information about requesting class changes. Students should initiate these requested using the form found in the schoolwide google classroom.



KMS Basic Protocols

Cell Phones

KMS does not allow cell phones to be used on campus. School is a place for learning and cell phones continue to be a distraction from learning. Please remind your student that cell phones are for emergency purposes. We need your support to keep the focus on learning please do not call or text your student while they are on campus. Please call the main office. We can pull your student from class to call you back.

Our policy is simple:

- Cell Phones seen on campus will be confiscated.
- The First and Second time a cell phone is confiscated students can pick it up from the office.
- The Third time a cell phone is confiscated parents will need to pick up the phone from the office.

Dress Code:

Please see this link for our dress code.

Food Delivery: We do not allow food delivery companies (Door Dash, Uber eats etc.) to deliver food to students on campus. This is a safety issue.

Electric Scooters:

Korematsu will no longer allow students to store or charge scooters in the office. All bikes and scooter need to be locked in the bike racks.

Here is our behavior matrix.

Daily Announcements/Information

At KMS we are working to develop students who advocate for themselves as they get ready for high school and beyond. Our daily announcements are used to provide information to all students and hopefully they bring the information home. Of course we also recognize our teens may "forget" to bring the information home in a timely manner. Here is a link to our daily announcements in case you want to keep up as a parent/guardian.

Week at a glance:

Monday - Regular Day, Volleyball Tryouts after school, Cross Country Practice

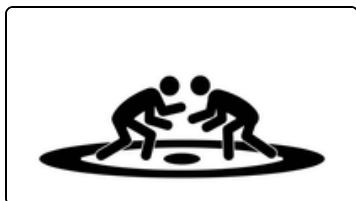
Tuesday - Flipped day, Volleyball Practice, Cross Country Practice

Wednesday - Minimum Day, Volleyball Practice

Thursday - Flipped Day, Volleyball Practice, Cross Country Practice

Friday - Regular Day

- Reminder - Monday September 2 is Labor day - No School



The KMS Wrestling Team

The KMS Wrestling team will introduce scholastic style wrestling to student athletes. We'll learn basic moves, tactics, and rules suitable for beginners. These techniques will benefit students already practicing other martial arts such as jiu jitsu or judo. Competitions with other middle schools are being scheduled. Practices will be Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00-4:15 in the MPR. Appropriate athletic attire is t-shirts, shorts or sweats, and supportive undergarments. Wrestling shoes are highly recommended. (They are available at Big 5 and online). To participate, students must return a signed guidelines form and permission slip.

Thank you for your interest. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Team Sponser: Andre Salinas

andre.salinas@wccusd.net

Coach: Jimmy Au

Your student is invited – please register for the meeting

Dear families,

Your student is invited to join us on an upcoming educational travel experience abroad! We are thrilled to inform you that we are organizing multiple exciting trips for our students, offering them valuable educational and experiential opportunities.

We will be holding a Back to School virtual informational meeting to discuss these exciting opportunities! At the meeting, the itinerary, activities, dates, academic opportunities, and cost will be covered.

Registration is required to attend the meeting. Please register and view all meeting details here: <https://bit.ly/3WDbXPW>

Trip 1: Italy and France

Group Leader: Mr. Lee

Trip 2: Alps and the Mediterranean Coast

Group Leader: Ms. Schmidt

There are limited spots on these trips, so we would love to see you at our meeting to learn more!

Thanks,

Mr. Lee and Ms. Schmidt

Please note this is a non-school sponsored trip.

RE: COVID

Per CDPH, former covid guidelines no longer apply. The following guidelines is what CDC recommends for students reporting covid illness covid-positive tests:

- 1) If the students themselves test positive or have symptoms, it should be treated as any other illness. Covid-related absences will be coded "I" in PowerSchool.
- 2) Isolation periods are no longer required; students may return to school as soon as they no longer show symptoms or have had a fever. If symptoms are present, student should stay home until symptoms are gone. Ind. Study may be offered.
- 3) Masking is recommended for 5 days after the reported covid illness
- 4) Students may return to class when they no longer show symptoms or have had a fever within the last 24 hours (without use of medication)
- 5) If household members report positive covid test or symptoms, the student is allowed in school as long the student is not positive or with symptoms.

Annual School Forms

!! Important - Complete Annual School Forms: Located in parent/guardian PowerSchool Portal. These forms are essential and need to be updated each year. Please make sure to include your correct email address on the forms. Most of our communication will be via email.

“Annual School Forms” MANDATORY and the ***“Education Benefits Form”***. MANDATORY

Links on how to: Annual School Form: Links on how to: Education Benefits Form:

English: <https://youtu.be/ipWRu3Ptlr8> English: <https://youtu.be/ka0-RMh84JQ>

Spanish: <https://youtu.be/OfAx1HFifW4> Spanish: https://youtu.be/aSW9I_sdYJ0

Social Media

Please review your students social media accounts and pages. Instagram pages are often used to spread misinformation, harassment and bullying of students at KMS and other schools. In all my years of flagging these accounts to Instagram, I have yet to see a single page taken down. Students are creating pages using multiple accounts and shared passwords. Sometimes several students are in "control" of a page. Often the language and images/videos of these pages are innocent and fun, but there are also instances where the page and posts are intentional harassment of classmates. As we have seen, this harassment can be extremely harmful. Please speak with your student about their use of instagram and social media. Here is a [review from Common Sense Media for Instagram.](#)

Social Media Warning from US Surgeon General

PTSA

The Korematsu PTSA is a wonderful group of parents and guardians focused on creating a positive learning community. I encourage everyone to become a member to support our school.

"Our unit is an Association run by bylaws, and is comprised of parents, guardians, staff and students. We support the students, staff, guardians and parents of KMS by providing volunteer time, financial resources, parent education, legislative involvement and serving as advocates for the students of KMS. Our role is to support the school's mission of ensuring that every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe, supportive environment and that all students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to leave KMS as productive citizens."

- [Become a member here!](#)
- Sign up to receive emails from PTSA by sending an email to: korematsu-pts-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

Please Donate to our PTSA
