

The Kennedy-Longfellow School



ABOUT THE KENNEDY-LONGFELLOW SCHOOL

The Kennedy-Longfellow School is located in East Cambridge near Ahern Field. The facility, built in 1971, is named in honor of Robert F. Kennedy and Henry Wadsworth and has spacious classrooms clustered by grade level to maximize integration and collaboration. The buildings special features include five outdoor play areas, an expansive library, a sunny cafeteria with walls of windows, an auditorium, a gymnasium, a science lab, two state-of-the-art computer labs (featuring PC and iMac), as well as dedicated classrooms for art, music, instruments and world languages. There is ample office space for tutors, specialists, and counselors.



The school is led by Principal Kate Conway, a native of Cambridge who earned a master's degree in education from Harvard's Graduate School of Education. Ms. Conway's experience includes 14 years as a classroom teacher. She is a former director of the Tobin School of the Future and served as acting principal of the Agassiz School from 1991-1992. She spent 14 years as elementary and middle school principal in the Wilmington Public Schools. Her educational philosophy is based upon the belief that school should help every child acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in school and in life.

The Kennedy-Longfellow School houses three distinct academic programs: A traditional program for Junior Kindergarten through eighth grade, self-contained Special Education Classes for 5-8 grade students, and the Intensive Studies Program (ISP) for

eligible students in grades 6 - 8. Each of these programs uses a standards based curriculum in full alignment with the national, state and local curriculum frameworks.

In addition, the Kennedy-Longfellow is the home of: East Cambridge Preschool Program, a Special Start Pre-K Program, the Summerbridge Academy Offices, Citywide Math Department Resources and Coordinator's Office, Citywide Language Arts Department Resources and Coordinator's Office, Kennedy-Longfellow Community Schools Office and the City of Cambridge Transportation Office.



WHAT MAKES THE KENNEDY-LONGFELLOW SCHOOL SPECIAL?



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

The Kennedy-Longfellow community recognizes that families are an integral part of our educational team. Parents, guardians and extended family members are expected to be involved in their child's learning.

Participation happens in a variety of ways. Invitations to breakfasts, potluck suppers, performances, special celebrations, fundraising opportunities, and academic presentations are a regular part of your experience at the Kennedy-Longfellow School. Parents are needed as room parents, as members of the School Council and its sub-committees, and through a variety of other volunteer opportunities.

COMMUNICATION

The Kennedy-Longfellow Annual Open House Parent Evening provides families with the opportunity to meet teachers, attain class syllabi and get an overview of the goals of the upcoming school year. Regularly scheduled parent/teacher conferences keep you informed regarding your child's progress. Academic Showcases throughout the year provide frequent opportunities for families to participate in their child's learning and to witness the academic excellence of all our students.

In addition, our parent liaison, Sharon Fernandes, is an important link in the communication chain between home and school. A school wide newsletter, including a calendar of events, is published weekly. This publication can be accessed by checking your child's backpack, personal email, and it is posted on our website. To learn more, contact Sharon Fernandes, the Kennedy-Longfellow School Family Liaison, by phone at 617-349-4865 or through email at sfernandes@cpsd.us.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

At the Kennedy-Longfellow School, we believe that the ability to collaborate with others and make a positive contribution to the community is as important as academic success. Students at The Kennedy-Longfellow School come from many countries and speak a variety of languages. We expect each student, educator, volunteer and family member to be sensitive to and respectful of human differences. We promote positive and respectful relationships among community members, as it is our responsibility to model that which we expect from our students.



to educate for life...

THE MISSION OF THE KENNEDY-LONGFELLOW SCHOOL

The mission of the Kennedy-Longfellow School is to educate for life, so that every child acquires the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond. Academic excellence is ensured by a rigorous standards based core curriculum and by a dedicated teaching staff.

The Kennedy-Longfellow School fosters a climate of respect and inclusiveness. All students and programs interact daily to create a community of learners that enhance our continued pursuit of academic excellence.

With these ideals in mind, The Kennedy-Longfellow has established the following programs and partnerships:

INTENSIVE STUDIES PROGRAM (ISP): ISP students are those who are committed to and enjoy academic excellence and intellectual challenges. Students from all over Cambridge in grades 6 – 8 are admitted to the program based on their capacity to explore topics in depth, practice inquiry-based investigations, and exhibit a strong motivation to learn.

LESLEY UNIVERSITY LITERACY COLLABORATIVE: This is a K-8 research-based approach to teaching reading, writing and language. Teaching occurs using guided reading, reading and writing workshops, interactive read-aloud, word study and work board.

AVID: The AVID program is designed to teach middle school students organizational strategies, good student habits and study techniques that ensure success in rigorous academic courses in middle school, high school and beyond.



Curriculum





TERC INVESTIGATIONS: A standards based curriculum program using hands-on, meaningful experiences with math. Students in grades K-5 learn to be adept problem solvers with a deep understanding and appreciation of math.

CONNECTED MATHEMATICS: “CMP” is a standards based curriculum that helps middle school students to develop an understanding of important mathematical concepts, skills, procedures, and ways of thinking and reasoning, in number, geometry, measurement, algebra, probability and statistics.

FAST MATH: A K-8 computer program that develops math fact fluency through adaptive instruction and practice through continual assessment.

NAEYC ACCREDITATION: In 2006-2007 the Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten faculty will continue a self-study process that will lead to accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The NAEYC administers the nation’s largest and most widely recognized accreditation system for early childhood education programs.

TECHNOLOGY: The Kennedy-Longfellow School has two state of the art computer labs, a PC lab, originally donated with a multitude of software programs by IBM and an iMac lab. Also available is a mobile cart furnished with laptop computers and an LCD projector which allows teachers to bring a lab setting into the classroom. Portable word processors, AlphaSmarts, are also available on carts with an infrared laser printer to assist in student publishing. Students in grades K-8 receive direct instruction in the use of various applications, digital media and hardware that are aligned with state frameworks and district standards for their grade level. Partnership programs with IBM, Draper, MIT, and Stride Rite continue to strengthen our technology instruction.



...to succeed in school and beyond.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The Kennedy-Longfellow staff believe in providing students with “real life” exposure to compliment what they learn each day at school. Since our school is located within a diverse neighborhood of universities, high tech firms, research facilities, museums, theaters and historic sites, frequent visits are planned that enhance and extend the curriculum.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD This intensive science program prepares students in grade 8 to create long term science projects that meet national competition standards. Kennedy-Longfellow School sends teams of students to compete in several events state wide.

NETPALS & KEYPALS These mentor style programs in partnership with Stride-Rite, Draper Lab, MIT & IBM offer students, in grades 5 & 6, insight into a variety of careers while developing an appreciation for and proficiency in communication and writing skills.
EWeek – This IBM sponsored program for grade 6 students promotes career awareness around engineering and technology.

READING BUDDIES Each Kennedy-Longfellow 2nd and 3rd grade student is matched with an employee from the VOLPE Transportation Center for a year long partnership to read books and share literature.

FOGG ART MUSEUM PROGRAM This interdisciplinary art study & art appreciation program in partnership with the Fogg Museum provides grade 3 students an in depth experience with artistic styles, artists and the Fogg Museum.

MOCK TRIAL AND SPEAK UP Students study United States History and the Judicial Branch of Government as part of the grade 8 curriculum. Upon completion of their studies, students visit Harvard University and participate in a mock trial.

MCAS PREP CLASSES Students that scored in the needs improvement or warning category on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment tests are required to attend after school tutorial sessions.





THE LEARNING CENTER The Learning Center provides homework help for students in grades 6-8 after school.

IMATH This math enrichment program for grade 8 students is in partnerships with MIT.

STRONG WOMEN, STRONG GIRLS This program is run by Harvard University women committed to helping young girls in grades 3 – 6 learn leadership skills and build self-esteem.

EAST END HOUSE The Kennedy Longfellow School shares a partnership with the East End House through the Connecting Schools Grant and the Out of School Quality Grant for extended day programs.

STUDENT COUNCIL Leadership and community service opportunities for students in grades 6 – 8.

PEER MEDIATION Conflict resolution strategies are discussed, modeled and practiced by students in grade 6 – 8.

PEP GRANT This Physical Education for Progress Grant supports the Kennedy-Longfellow in offering students to be physically active: before school, during school and after school.

WALKING/FITNESS CLUB Adults and children gather before school in the gym for an aerobic workout.

DANCE CLUB Girls in grades 7 & 8 work with a dance coach to learn, choreograph and perform hip-hop dance routines.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS The Kennedy-Longfellow School offers throughout the year boys and girls intramural athletic teams, including basketball and volleyball, that compete with other Cambridge schools.



THE KENNEDY-LONGFELLOW SCHOOL

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CORE VALUES

WE AS PART OF THE KENNEDY-LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY:

- Strive for academic excellence
- Always do our best
- Demonstrate Integrity
- Take responsibility for our behavior and our actions
- Respect ourselves, others and school property