



Dear Kennedy Elementary School Parent/Guardian:

The beginning of the 2017-18 school year is rapidly approaching. The **first day of school for Grades 1-4 is Tuesday, September 5. Kindergarten student's first full day is Wednesday, September 6** as they have orientation on Tuesday, September 5.

School Day: School begins at **8:50 am** and students should arrive at school from **8:30 am to 8:45 am** to be ready for the start of the learning day at 8:50 am. Students eating breakfast in the cafeteria are allowed into school at 8:25 am and the classrooms are open at 8:30 am. **3:25 pm is the dismissal time for all students.**

Open House:

The Open House for all grades will be held on **Wednesday, August 30th from 4:30-6:30 pm.** The **kindergarten through 4th grade** classrooms will be open during the Open House. Please feel free to find the classroom and informally meet the teacher. There will not be scheduled presentations for each grade. The time is reserved for students and parents to put supplies away and meet their teacher(s). To help limit the amount of congestion, please follow the suggested schedule below.

4:30-5:15 Families with last names beginning with A-L can drop off materials and meet with the teacher.

5:45-6:30 Families with last names beginning with M-Z can drop off materials and meet with the teacher.

*If you need to come at the other time, please feel free to do so.

Other Items During the Open House: Parents will be able to pay lunch money, hand in paperwork, get car pick up numbers from the office, visit with the nurse, pre-register for the visitor/volunteer sign-in system and view the [Kids Campus](#) program.

Fall Parent/Teacher Conference Scheduling: We will be using an online scheduling system to schedule Parent/Teacher Conferences. This information will be sent out in September. **Parents will be able to sign-up for one 20 minute conference per child.**

District Calendars: Please visit this site to view the districtwide calendars:
http://hastings.ss13.sharpschool.com/news_events/calendars

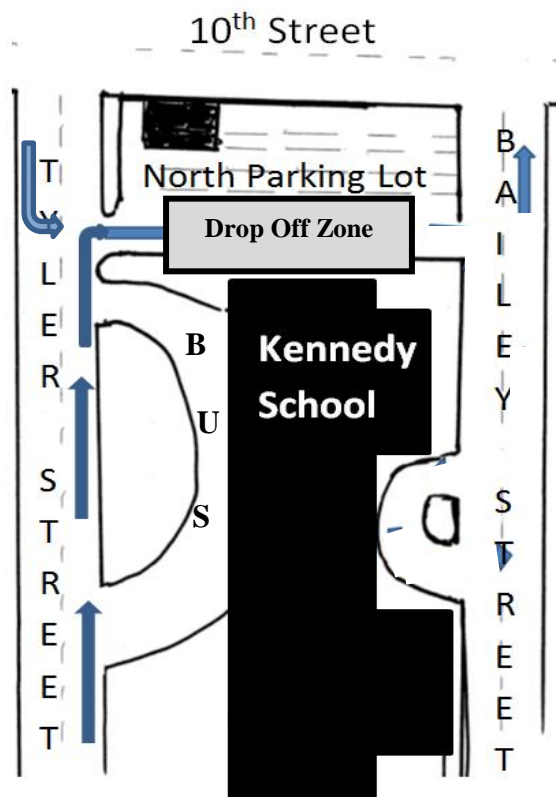
Kennedy Website: Please visit our school on the web at <http://kennedy.hastings.k12.mn.us/> to find school information. Our website features the [monthly newsletter](#), [supply list](#), [classroom websites](#), [lunch menu](#) and more.

School Supplies: The Kennedy [Supply List](#) is available at Target, Walmart, etc. and is available on the school website.

[Hastings Family Service](#) is accepting donations of school supplies for distribution. Donations of school supplies, new socks, underwear and backpacks may be brought to the HFS or placed in the labeled bins at various businesses. If you are in need of school supplies, please call Hastings Family Service at 651-437-7134 or visit their store at 301 East 2nd Street. Distribution of school supplies will be on **August 22-24 & 28-29 and by appointment.**

Bussing: K-12 bus pick-up locations and times will be mailed by the Hastings Bus Company sometime in the month of August. Students who live within the walking areas will receive notice that they are **ineligible** for bus transportation.

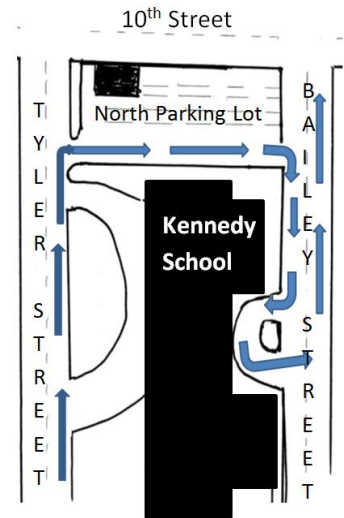
Morning Drop Off Zone: Please drop your children off at the bottom of the stairs in the north parking lot. A short sidewalk will lead them right into the building without crossing streets or going between cars or buses. Enter the lot from Tyler St. Please have them ready to exit your car so the line does not get backed up. Parents should be able to stay in the car. The curved drive at the front of the building is reserved for buses only.



Dismissal Time: 3:25 is the dismissal time for all students. Students being picked up by car will be dismissed from the back horseshoe drive. Be sure to get your car/student number from the office. Walkers and bus students will use the front door. The curved drive at the front of the building is reserved for buses.

Afternoon car pick-up procedures: Dismissal begins at 3:25 and takes a total of about 15 minutes. The line moves quickly beginning at the 3:25 dismissal bell.

- If you are picking your child up at the end of the day, you will need to stop at the school office to get a number to display in your vehicle window. Students will have a matching number to be attached to their backpack.
- Form a single line of traffic entering from Tyler Street, through the north parking lot, around to the back of the building.
- **PLEASE STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE.** Students will be assisted to the vehicles.
- Please move your car up as soon as the car in front of you moves forward.
- Make sure your car number is visible. The numbers may be attached to the passenger side visor so it can conveniently be flipped down or on the front passenger window. The numbers are not visible if they are on the dash.



Breakfast, Lunch & Milk: School breakfast and lunch will be served on the first day of school. Breakfast is \$1.30. Breakfast is free for all kindergarten students and grade 1-4 students qualifying for free or reduced priced meals. Application forms for free lunch are available in the school office or go to this website: <http://www.smartchoiceshastings.info/application-for-meal-benefits.html> **You must reapply even if you qualified last year.** If your family received free or reduced priced meals last school year, that same eligibility will remain in effect through October 16, 2017. Families who have this 30 day carry-over and have not submitted an application for the current school year by October 16, 2017 will lose their eligibility.

You will need to pay for breakfast and lunch until the paperwork is done and official qualification is accepted.

The hot lunch price for the 2017-18 school year will be \$2.70 per lunch. Milk is \$0.50 per carton for students who wish to purchase milk for lunch when they bring their own lunch from home.

Please pay for lunches online if possible. (http://www.hastings.k12.mn.us/for_parents) Otherwise, send money to school in an envelope labeled with your child's name, amount, and teacher written on the outside.

Please note that your child's lunch/breakfast account should be maintained with a positive balance. **Please make sure your child understands your feelings about purchasing breakfast and additional milk at lunchtime.**

We are all looking forward to a successful school year!

Kyle Latch, Principal
John F. Kennedy Elementary