

SEPTEMBER 2023

# Welcome Back

Kennedy Elementary Back to School Edition



Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

At Kennedy, we value partnerships with our families and community. We strive to maintain a positive school climate so that all students have the best educational experience possible and that families know they are welcomed and valued. We hope that you found our 1:1 family conference beneficial. There will be conferences again in October and February, and you are welcome to reach out to us anytime you have questions, concerns, or ideas to share with us!

Your children are in good hands at Kennedy. We offer a well rounded education that includes instruction in literacy, math, social studies, science, art, physical education, and music. We also focus on the well being of all and include lessons and support in social and emotional learning. Our teachers and paraprofessionals are committed to giving your child an exceptional education.

Kennedy Elementary receives Title I funding. Title I programming is designed to give students help in reading and/or math based upon the recommendation of the classroom teacher and performance on standardized tests or formal assessments. It involves individual and/or small group help based on student needs. The opportunity for additional instruction increases the child's ability to succeed in reading and/or math. Title I is staffed with caring and licensed teachers who are committed to providing lessons to your children that help them to more completely understand the classroom material.

We invite you to visit Kennedy to experience our wonderful school community. If we can help you or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 320-214-6688.

We offer a sincere welcome to each and every one of you!  
Kennedy staff and students reach for the STARS!

Kristin Dresler, Principal

## Newsletter Highlights

**Important Dates**

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**School Year Calendar**

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**Attendance Policy**

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**Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures**

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**Visitor/ Volunteer Policy**

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**Upcoming Dates to Remember!**

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**Contact Us**



**#KENNEDYSTARS**

# 2023-2024 DISTRICT CALENDAR

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023						
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26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2024						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2024						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH 2024						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2024						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2024						
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Aug. 21 & 25 New Teacher Induction  
 Aug. 22 - 24 Standard Based Learning Teacher Workshop  
 Days Aug. 28 - 31 Teacher Workshop (PreK-12)  
 Sept. 4 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day (Holiday)  
 Sept. 5 First Day of School (6-12)  
 Sept. 7 First Day of School (K-5)  
 Oct. 18 Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-8);  
 NO SCHOOL for K-8 students only  
 Oct. 19-20 NO SCHOOL - Fall Break  
 Nov. 3 \_\_\_\_\_ End of Term 1  
 Nov. 15 Professional Development; 2 - hour late start for students  
 Nov. 22 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Conference Comp Day  
 Nov. 23 - 24 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break  
 Dec. 6 Professional Development; 2-hour late start for students  
 Dec. 25 - Jan. 1 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break  
 Jan. 2 School Resumes  
 Jan. 15 PreK-12 Teacher In-Service; NO SCHOOL for students  
 Jan. 19 End of Term 2  
 Jan. 31 Professional Development; 2 hour late start for students  
 Feb. 16 Parent/Teacher Conferences (K-12); NO SCHOOL for students  
 Feb. 19 NO SCHOOL - Standards Based Learning Teacher Workshop Day  
 Mar. 22 End of Term 3  
 Mar. 25 - 29 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break  
 Apr. 1 School Resumes  
 Apr. 10 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Conference Comp Day  
 May 3 Professional Development; 2-hour early dismissal for students  
 May 27 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day (Holiday)  
 May 30 Last Day for Seniors  
 May 31 End of Term 4  
 June 2 WHS Commencement  
 June 3 Standards Based Learning Teacher Workshop Day  
 June 4 PreK-12 Teacher Work Day

■ NO SCHOOL

■ Late Start/Early Dismissal

NOTE: Inclement weather days will be e-learning days and in June (if additional days are needed).



## Kennedy School Attendance

### Tardies

A letter will be sent after fifteen (15) tardies.

A plan may be developed to improve the student's on-time arrival.

### Absences

When a child is absent because of illness or other times that a parent/guardian deems necessary, the parent/guardian must contact the school office in order to arrange for an *excused absence*.

Here are ways to contact us:

- Call the attendance line at (320-214-6681)
- Send a signed note with your child to drop off at the office
- Email our attendance office at [kennattendance@willmar.k12.mn.us](mailto:kennattendance@willmar.k12.mn.us)
- Come directly to the school attendance office to report the absence.

When reporting an absence, please include the following information:

- Child's Name
- Date of absence
- Name of person reporting if by phone and signature if by note
- Phone number where parent or guardian can be reached

The school reserves the right to determine if absences are **excused**.

Valid excuses include illness, health appointments (a physician's verification will be needed after the tenth illness absence), extreme family emergencies, court, religious observations.

All other absences will be considered an **unexcused absence**:

- Children who have three (3) unexcused absences will have a letter sent to their parent/guardian asking for an explanation for the absences.

- If the school does not hear back from the parent/guardian or if the absences remain unexcused, a referral will be made the Kandiyohi County Truancy Mediation Program (per county requirements)



## Parent Drop-off and Pick-up

Hours: 8:15-8:30am and 3:15-3:30pm

*\*Students should not arrive to school before 8:15, when our doors unlock\**

**Parents cannot drop off students at the front doors on 7th street. The front doors will remain locked.**

***If using the drop-off/pick-up LANE:***

- Only drop off students in the designated area (after the crosswalk) See picture below.
- Please pull forward as far as you are able to so we can avoid traffic build-up.
- Students should only exit the car on the passenger side of the vehicle.
- Adults need to remain in their vehicles at all times.



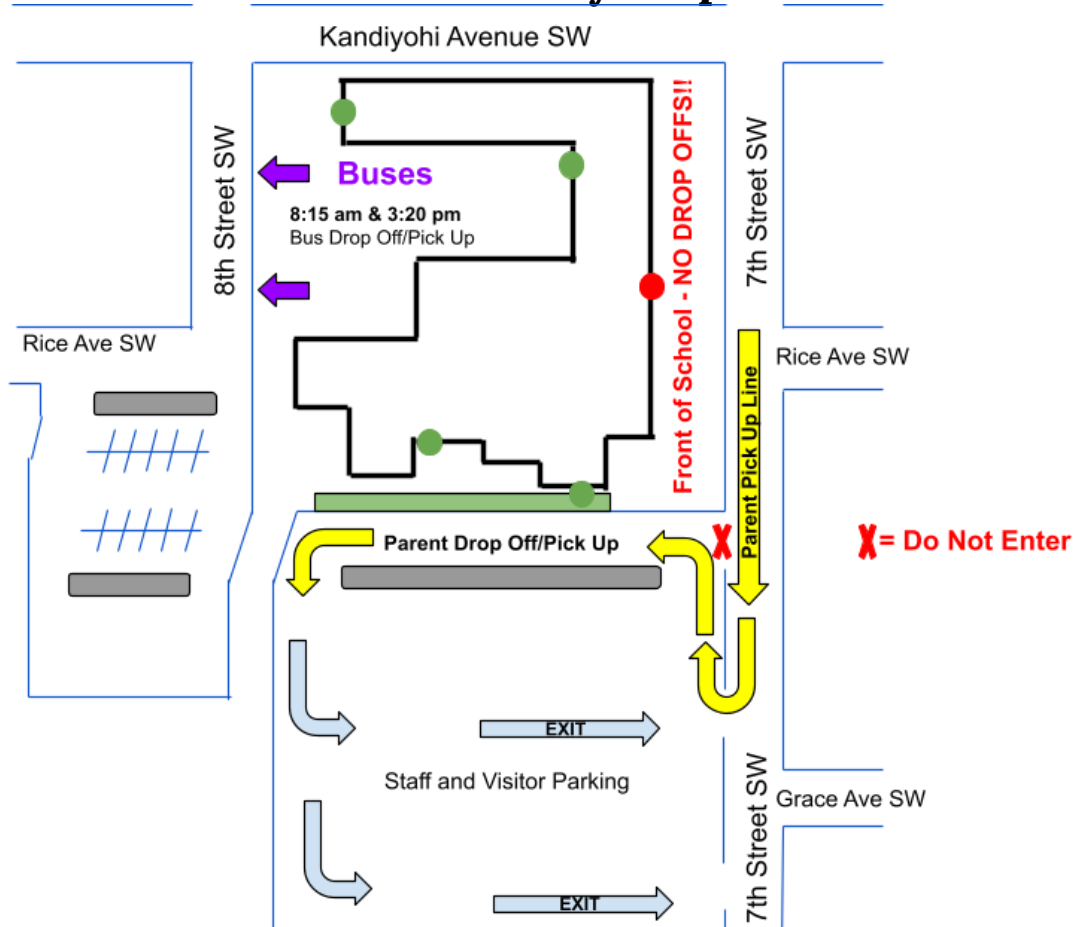
***Use the PARKING LOT if:***

- Students need assistance getting out of the vehicle.
- Students can only exit out the driver's side.
- The student needs an instrument or something else out of the back of the vehicle.
- Parents want to walk their students to the outside door.

Thank you for keeping our Kennedy students safe!



## Kennedy Map



Kennedy Families,

The safety of your children is our most important responsibility. We need your help with this! Dismissal time can be very hectic as we currently have over 700 students to safely deliver home. Therefore we must have some procedures in place and we ask you to please learn and follow them.

**KENNEDY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES:**

School is dismissed at 3:20.

If your child's after school plan changes, the office must be notified no later than 2pm to ensure teacher notification.

While we understand that sometimes you'll have an appointment and will need to pick your child up early, please know that between 3:00 and 3:20, secretaries will be unable to reach teachers to call students to the office. Please plan accordingly.

**BUS RIDERS**—Teachers walk all bus riders directly to the bus they are assigned.

CARDINAL PLACE—Teachers walk these students to the Cardinal Place area.

**WALKERS**—Teachers walk students to one of three doors. Those doors are as follows:

Northwest corner (8th and Kandiyohi)

Northeast corner (7th and Kandiyohi)

Front Entrance (7th Street)

The door used is generally the closest one to where the student is walking to.

Please help us keep all kids safe and allow us a crowd-free supervisory area as we help students get home. Thank you for working with us by following our dismissal plan.

Thank you for keeping our Kennedy students safe!



# VISITOR AND VOLUNTEER POLICY

For the safety and security of all students, we require a picture ID to be shown before allowing individuals to enter the building. A picture ID is also required to be shown at the time of signing a student out, or when an individual is requesting to see or speak with a student.

We do not call students down to the office after 3:00PM.

A background check and Bully Training will be required for all volunteers. This can be found on our school website.



Nawad kalyada/badbaadada dhamaan ardayda, waxaan u baahanahay aqoonsi sawir leh in la tuso ka hor inta aan loo oggolaan shkhsiyaadka ineey soo galaan dhismaha iskuulka. Aqoonsiga sawirka ayaa sidoo kale loo baahanyahay in tuso wakhtiga ardaygu baxaayo, ama marka shakhsigu codsanaayo inuu arko ama la hadlo ardayga.

Baaritaanka taariikhda iyo tababbarka cagajuglaynta ayaa looga baahan donaa dhamaan mutadwiciinta. Tan waxaa ka heli kartaa boggayga dusiga/iskuulka.

Para la seguridad de todos los estudiantes, requerimos que se muestre una identificación con fotografía antes de permitir que las personas ingresen al edificio. También se requiere mostrar una identificación con fotografía al momento de firmar la salida de un estudiante, o cuando una persona solicita ver o hablar con un estudiante.

No llamamos a los estudiantes a la oficina después de las 3:00 p. m.

Se requerirá una verificación de antecedentes y capacitación sobre intimidación para todos los voluntarios. Esto se puede encontrar en el sitio web de nuestra escuela.



**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**



Picture day will take place on September 20th and 21st.

El día de la fotografía se llevará a cabo los días 20 y 21 de septiembre.

maalinta sawirku waxeey ahoondoontaa bisha sagaalaad 20-keeda iyo 21-koowdeeda

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**Parent Teacher Conferences will be on  
the following dates:**

October 12th, 16th, and 18th

February 8th, 12th, and 16th

**Las conferencias de padres y maestros  
serán en las siguientes fechas:**

12, 16, y 18 de Octubre

8, 12, y 16 Febrero

**Shirka macalinmiinta iyo waalidka waxeey  
ahaan doontaa taariikhda soo socoto.**

bisha tobnaad 12th, 16th, and 18th

bisha lawaad 8th, 12th, and 16th



## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:



**First day of School!**

**K-5 : Thursday, September 7th**

**Pre-School: Monday, September 11th**

**¡Primer día de escuela!**

**K-5: jueves 7 de septiembre**

**Preescolar: lunes 11 de septiembre**

**maalinta ugu horeeso iskuulka waa,**

**K-5: Khamiista, bisha sagaalaad, 7-deeda**

**Caruurta Preschool na waa**

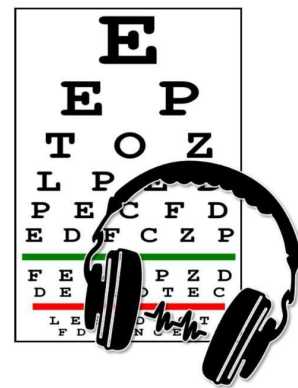
**Isniinta, bisha salaagaad, 11-keeda**

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**Vision and Hearing Screening**  
**Friday, September 29th**

**Exámenes de visión y audición**  
**Viernes 29 de septiembre**

**Baarista aragga iyo maqalka waa,**  
**jimcaha, bisha sagaalaad, 29-keeda**

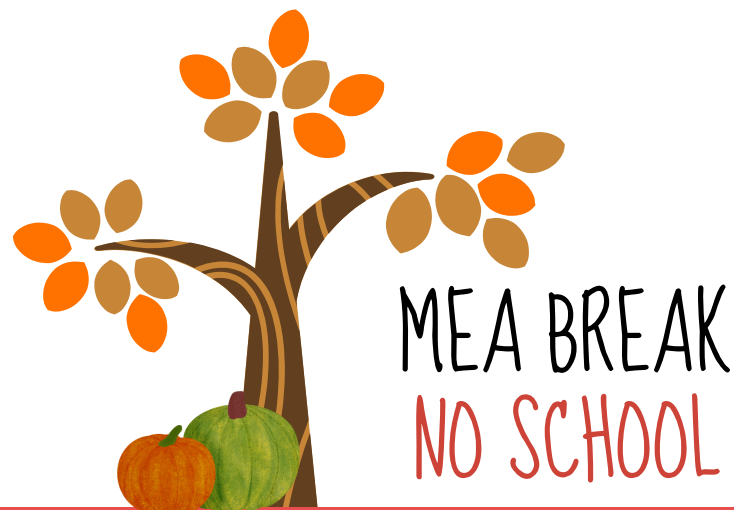


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**MEA Break: No School**  
**October 18th, 19th, and 20th**

**Descanso de MEA: No hay clases**  
**18, 19 y 20 de octubre**

**Maalmahaan iskuulka waa fasax.**  
**Bisha tobnaad/october, 18-keeda, 19-keeda iyo 20-keeda**



**MEA BREAK**  
**NO SCHOOL**



**CONTACT US:**

**Kennedy Elementary School**  
**824 7th St SW**  
**Willmar, MN 56201**

[www.willmar.mn.k12.us](http://www.willmar.mn.k12.us)

**Main Office:** 320-214-6688

**Nurse Line:** 320-214-6682

**Attendance Line:** 320-214-6681

**Attendance Email:**

[kennattendance@willmar.k12.mn.us](mailto:kennattendance@willmar.k12.mn.us)

**Cardinal Place**  
**(Before/After School Child Care)**  
320-214-6680

**Willmar Bus**  
320-235-2110  
[school@willmarbus.com](mailto:school@willmarbus.com)

