Howard Kennedy Elementary School

In partnership with

...will offer a unique learning environment for students beginning the 2016/2017 academic year

Kennedy Elementary will operate as the center of an integrated, holistic neighborhood revitalization effort where children learn, families are healthy, and community thrives.

Howard Kennedy Elementary
2609 North 30 Street  Omaha, NE 68111

Mark Evans, Superintendent

Frequently Asked Questions...

How will Kennedy Elementary change?
OPS and 75 North will implement an educational model used by Charles R. Drew Charter School, Atlanta, which emphasizes continuous improvement, flexibility, and accountability. Kennedy staff will work to develop a community where staff, students, families, and volunteers provide a learning environment that stresses high achievement and character development.

What grades can attend?
Students in grades Pre-K through fifth grade qualify to attend Kennedy Elementary with an emphasis on a continuous cradle-to-college education pipeline.

What will the hours of operation be?
Kennedy will operate on an extended school day – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Will the school calendar be the same?
Five instructional days and five teacher days will be added to the school calendar.

Will a before and after-school program be available?
Currently, there are no plans for a before school program; however, Kennedy will have an extensive after-school program in place that will provide enrichment opportunities for students of all ages.

What will the focus be?
In addition to a strong focus on language and literacy, students at Kennedy Elementary will be immersed in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) subjects through project-based learning. By infusing these areas of curriculum into the school as a whole, Kennedy will give students the opportunity to compete in a global world.

How will the school be funded?
Initially, OPS, Title I, Head Start, and grants to support the infant/toddler classrooms will fund the bulk of the program with 75 North funding any remaining gap through 2026. Beginning in 2022, OPS will increase funds to Kennedy by 20% each year thereafter through 2026. At that time, OPS would assume 100% of Kennedy’s program costs.
The Omaha Public School District – through a shared vision with 75 North – has a unique opportunity to change the lives of Kennedy Elementary students in profound and dramatic ways. Over the next few years, Kennedy will undergo significant changes to its curriculum, its staff, and the services it offers to students and the community. This is an exciting time in north Omaha’s history, and as principal of Kennedy; I look forward to being a part of such a positive endeavor and working with parents, community partners, and staff to make our goals a reality.

For further information, please contact Tony Gunter at rios.gunter@ops.org, 402-457-5520 or check us out online at:
- kennedy.ops.org/ – Kennedy’s Future
- @OPS_Kennedy on Twitter

**Overall Goals**

**Goal 1:** In 10 years, Kennedy Elementary students will perform among the top 15% of all public elementary schools in the state of Nebraska.

**Goal 2:** In 10 years, Kennedy Elementary students will perform among the top 5% of all public elementary schools in the state of Nebraska serving similar demographics.

**How We Intend to Achieve Our Goals**

We intend to achieve our goals through these essential elements:

- Highly effective school leader and staff: Culture of staff empowerment and autonomy, and an openness to collaborate with community partners
- Embedded professional development: targeted, ongoing investments in staff
- Strong focus on literacy
- Robust early-learning program with language and literacy foundation
- Early and intentional interventions that help students catch up faster
- STEAM/PBL (science, technology, engineering, art, math/project-based learning) as a distinct instructional model that has deep arts integration and provides thematic focus
- Longer school day/school year
- Part of a coordinated, holistic neighborhood revitalization effort

The vision for the Highlander Neighborhood is structured according to Purpose Built Communities’ proven model – the Drew Charter School in Atlanta, Georgia...

...and will be applied right here in Omaha along North 30th Street.