

Kernan Middle School

2271 South Kernan Blvd.

Jacksonville, FL 32246

(904) 220-1350

(904) 220-1355 (fax)

Website: <http://www.duvalschools.org/kms>



Home of the Ospreys

School Hours 9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Vision Statement:

- Creating a place where people thrive in a global society

Kernan's Core Beliefs:

- We believe all students can learn.
- We believe all students must have a rigorous curriculum.
- We believe all students need to be prepared for high school and beyond.
- We are creating a positive and caring environment to enable the success of all learners.
- Within our small learning communities, we are building safe environments and strong relationships.

The planner is a valuable, organizational resource that will help students understand expectations and monitor their own academic success. All students will receive a planner at the beginning of the school year. Students are to have their planners with them at all times. If lost, they are expected to replace them at their own expense. In the first few weeks of school, students will be developing the “planner habit” by learning how to enter assignments and record important information. Students should use their planner to find helpful reference information for their language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies classes. The planner also features topics to help students learn techniques that will be beneficial to them now, as well as in the future: time management, goal setting, study habits, test taking tips, and reading/writing strategies.

The planner also contains the student handbook, which explains general school procedures and policies. In addition, the planner is a communication tool for parents and teachers. Planners should be monitored at home on a daily basis as they will be monitored at school. Together, as partners in education, students will be provided with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to lead productive lives.

This planner belongs to: _____ **Student #** _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____ **HR #** _____

My schedule:

1 st period	_____
2 nd period	_____
3 rd period	_____
4 th period	_____
5 th period	_____
6 th period	_____
7 th period	_____

HOUSE OFFICE

The vision of Kernan is to create a safe, civil school that provides for a journey through middle school where each student learns necessary skills for success in high school and beyond. Through organizational structures, operational standards, and research-based initiatives, the faculty and staff provide a middle school experience promoting the success of each individual learner.

Kernan Middle School is designed around the philosophy that each student is known as an individual and valued as part of the school population. It is also our goal to provide every student the opportunity to successfully achieve at the highest standards. To achieve this focus, our school is divided into three small schools-within-a-school. Each school, or House, consists of three academic teams: one sixth grade, one seventh grade and one eighth grade. Each House is assigned an administrator who functions as the “Principal” of the building.

This arrangement provides an opportunity for students to build a relationship with the teachers and the administrator within the building as they develop both academically and socially during their middle school career. Every effort will be made to keep students in the same house for the duration of their middle school career; however, due to changes in student population and scheduling some students may need to change houses in order to maintain equitable numbers of students in all three houses.

House Information

Bldg. 8 – House A x 122

Bldg. 7 – House B x 137

Bldg. 6 – House C x 152

Bldg. 9 – House D x 203

ACADEMICS

The academic success of all students is a critical component of middle school. Success in life begins with academic success at Kernan Middle School. In keeping with this belief, all of our students are enrolled in advanced classes. Student performance is measured by high academic standards defined by the Next Generation Standards

Course Requirements

Each subject area addresses the following standards. In addition, specific materials and supplies may be required to be purchased for each course.

Science

BIG IDEA 1: THE PRACTICE OF SCIENCE
BIG IDEA 2: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
BIG IDEA 3: THE ROLE OF THEORIES, LAWS, HYPOTHESES, AND MODELS
BIG IDEA 4: SCIENCE AND SOCIETY
BIG IDEA 5: EARTH IN SPACE AND TIME
BIG IDEA 6: EARTH STRUCTURES
BIG IDEA 7: EARTH SYSTEMS AND PATTERNS
BIG IDEA 8: PROPERTIES OF MATTER
BIG IDEA 9: CHANGES IN MATTER
BIG IDEA 10: FORMS OF ENERGY
BIG IDEA 11: ENERGY TRANSFER AND TRANSFORMATIONS
BIG IDEA 12: MOTION OF OBJECTS
BIG IDEA 13: FORCES AND CHANGES IN MOTION
BIG IDEA 14: ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LIVING ORGANISMS
BIG IDEA 15: DIVERSITY AND EVOLUTION OF LIVING ORGANISMS
BIG IDEA 16: HEREDITY AND REPRODUCTION
BIG IDEA 17: INTERDEPENDENCE
BIG IDEA 18: MATTER AND ENERGY TRANSFORMATIONS

Language Arts

STRAND: READING PROCESS
STRAND: LITERARY ANALYSIS
STRAND: WRITING PROCESS
STRAND: WRITING APPLICATIONS
STRAND: COMMUNICATION
STRAND: INFORMATION AND MEDIA LITERACY

Mathematics

BIG IDEA 1: DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND FLUENCY WITH MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION OF FRACTIONS AND DECIMALS.
BIG IDEA 2: CONNECT RATIO AND RATES TO MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION.
BIG IDEA 3: WRITE, INTERPRET, AND USE MATHEMATICAL EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS.

BIG IDEA 1: DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND APPLY PROPORTIONALITY, INCLUDING SIMILARITY.
BIG IDEA 2: DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND USE FORMULAS TO DETERMINE SURFACE AREAS AND VOLUMES OF THREE-DIMENSIONAL SHAPES.
BIG IDEA 3: DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF OPERATIONS ON ALL RATIONAL NUMBERS AND SOLVING LINEAR EQUATIONS.

BIG IDEA 1: ANALYZE AND REPRESENT LINEAR FUNCTIONS, AND SOLVE LINEAR EQUATIONS AND SYSTEMS OF LINEAR EQUATIONS.
BIG IDEA 2: ANALYZE TWO- AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL FIGURES BY USING DISTANCE AND ANGLE.
BIG IDEA 3: ANALYZE AND SUMMARIZE DATA SETS.

Social Studies

STRAND: GEOGRAPHY
STRAND: ECONOMICS
STRAND: WORLD HISTORY
STRAND: CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT
STRAND: AMERICAN HISTORY

Physical Education

Students are required to change their school clothes for physical education classes. Green or black shorts and a white or gray t-shirt are required along with non-marking sole tennis shoes. PE uniforms are available for purchase. Students must have a written excuse from a parent/guardian to be excused from class. More than two consecutive excuses will require a doctor’s note to the teacher. Students are also required to rent a locker to store their clothes and valuables in the locker room. PE locker rental is \$3.00. (This is in addition to lock rental for hallway lockers.)

HOUSE OFFICE

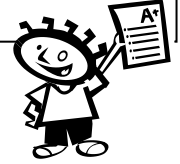
Promotional Requirements

The promotional requirements for students in grades six, seven, and eight will be based on the following criteria:

- Students must pass Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies with a minimum grade of D.
- Students must maintain a 1.5 GPA
- Students must meet all district and state requirements as indicated in the Pupil Progression Plan.

Grading Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F



Grade Portal <https://dcps.mygradeportal.com>

Parents and students have 24-hour access to student grade and assignment information using the Grade Portal. Each student is given his/her own login and password. Parents may obtain their own login/password to access their child's information by presenting identification in the Main Office.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the student's overall educational program. Students will be assigned homework on an as needed basis and are expected to complete it. Students are expected to make up any missing assignments due to an absence. Students are expected to record homework assignments in their planners.



Parents may contact the House Office to request assignments in the event of an extended absence. Please allow 24 hours for teachers to prepare assignments. The assignments may be picked up in the House Office.

Textbooks

Students are furnished state adopted textbooks for use during the school year. Textbooks are electronically checked out and monitored during the school year. Students are responsible for any fines relating to damaged and lost textbooks assigned to them. Check or cash will be accepted to pay for lost and damaged textbooks.

Students also have available to them supplemental reading books in the classroom libraries and in classroom collections. Students are responsible for any fines relating to damaged and lost supplemental books used in the classroom libraries or collections.

Safety Nets

Summer School is no longer an option for students not meeting promotional requirements. Students are required to participate in a safety net program during the regular school year if they are not meeting promotional requirements. Students will be recommended for Safety Net programs based upon eligibility and will be informed by the school through a written letter, phone call, and/or planner. Early intervention is necessary for academic success.

Intensive Reading

- Students scoring FCAT SSS Reading Level 1 as well as students determined to be disfluent Level 2 are required to take the Read 180 Intensive Reading class. Students will automatically be enrolled in this course.

Team Up

- Team Up is an after school program designed to provide academic assistance including instruction from teachers in the appropriate subject areas and homework support.

Tutoring

- Students may receive additional academic assistance through individual teachers and/or teams.

Compass Odyssey <https://odyssey.duvalschools.org>

- Students may access Compass Odyssey at home for grade recovery and remediation purposes.

FCAT Explorer <http://www.fcatexplorer.com>

- Student may access this free, online educational program for Florida's students that reinforces reading and math skills outlined in the Sunshine State Standards.

Gizmos <http://www.explorellearning.com/>

- Math and Science Gizmos are designed to help students develop a deep and lasting understanding of key concepts in math and science through inquiry and exploration.

HOUSE OFFICE

Progress Reports

Progress Reports are issued during the 5th week of each quarter. Students are required to take the Progress Report home, have it signed by the parent/guardian and return it to school within three days.

Report Cards

Students are issued a Report Card at the end of every nine weeks. The last Report Card is mailed home at the end of the school year.

ATTENDANCE

Absences

Regular attendance in school is essential for a quality education. State law requires children between the ages of 6 and 16 to attend school. A student may not have more than 5 unexcused absences within a calendar month.

The following are acceptable reasons for an absence:

- Personal or family illness
- Inclement weather
- Recognized religious holidays
- Court appearances
- Death in the immediate family
- Doctor's appointment

Any student who is absent for three consecutive days must bring a doctor's note or a note from a parent or guardian explaining the reasons for the absence when the student returns to school. This note is to be turned in to the student's first period teacher. **Parents will be required to attend an Attendance Intervention Team meeting if their student has acquired five or more unexcused absences within a thirty day period.**

Early Dismissal

Early dismissals are for special circumstances that may occur during school hours such as:

- Court appearance
- Doctor's appointment
- Personal emergency or crisis
- Illness

The parent or guardian must send a note to the House Office during first period. The parent or guardian must sign the student out in the House Office and present photo identification. There is no early dismissal after 3:30 p.m. Students will only be released to those adults (age 18 or older) listed on the DCPS Authorization for Emergency Care form (blue card). Photo identification is required and should be presented to the House Office.

Tardy to School

Parents must write a note stating the reason for the student's tardy. Students are to bring the note to the House Office, sign in and receive a pass to class.

Excessive absences, excessive tardiness to school and excessive early checkouts may warrant a meeting with the Attendance Intervention Team.

Make-Up Work

Students who miss a class for any reason will be given the opportunity to complete the work missed in that class. Students are allowed as many days to make-up missed work, as they were absent. Students are responsible for getting the work from their teachers. All make-up work must be completed and returned to the appropriate teachers for credit.

HEALTH

Illness at School

Students who become ill during the day may report to the House Office with a planner signed by a teacher. If necessary, the House Office will attempt to contact a parent or guardian by telephone. Parents or guardians must pick up students who are too ill to remain in school after the House Office has contacted them. Clinics are only equipped to provide temporary care and are not able to provide all day care for students who become ill.

Medications

Medications must be brought into the House Office by a parent and will only be administered if the parent/guardian has completed all necessary forms required. Medication must be in the ORIGINAL container with an affixed label with student's name, name of medication, dosage, and time of administration.

All medications will be kept in a secured location in the House Office. Staff members can only administer medications prescribed by a physician and/or authorized by a parent/guardian. At no time should a student be in possession of any type of prescription or over-the-counter medication.



HOUSE OFFICE

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The Duval County School Board has adopted a Secondary Code of Conduct. Each student will sign for and receive a copy of the code and is expected to abide by the rules and regulations outlined. For the safety of the learning community, the Student Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. Students sent out of class with a referral must report directly to the House Office. You may find the Code of Conduct on the district website: www.duvalschools.org

Dress Code

Students must follow the guidelines set forth by the Secondary Code of Conduct. The site administration shall be the final judge as to neatness and cleanliness of wearing apparel and whether or not such apparel is appropriate, disruptive, distracting, or in violation of health and safety rules.

BEHAVIOR

School-wide Behavioral Management Plan

Kernan's Guidelines for Success: **K**indness, **M**utual Respect, and **S**elf-control.

Kernan Middle School utilizes two behavioral management programs: Foundations and CHAMPs. Foundations establishes routines for movement between classes, the cafeteria, and around campus. These established movement patterns are designed to facilitate the timely and safe movement of all students on campus.

CHAMPs provides a positive approach toward classroom management. CHAMPs establishes rituals and routines within the classroom by addressing conversation, help, activity, movement, and participation for activities and transitions. This method enables an atmosphere of safe and civil interactions between teachers and students.

Kernan Middle School
Kindness

Mutual Respect

Self-control



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Parental Communication

Blue Cards are distributed during the first week of school to obtain pertinent student information such as phone numbers, emergency contacts and address. Parents must return the Blue Card and notify the school immediately when a change in address or phone has occurred.

Parent Link is an automated phone service that will provide information for school wide events. An accurate phone number must be on file to receive the automated call.

Parents can access district information using the <http://www.duvalschools.org> website or by accessing the Kernan website at <http://www.duvalschools.org/kms>.

Parents may set up conferences with teachers by contacting the House Office.

Lockers

Students are assigned to a locker at the beginning of the year. At this time, students are required to rent a lock for their assigned locker. The cost to rent a lock is **\$3.00**.

Students are responsible for the condition and contents of the assigned locker. Damage to a locker should be reported to the House Office immediately.

The use of stickers, tape or any adhesive to attach items in your locker is prohibited. Students are encouraged to use magnets to hang items in their lockers. Backpacks are not permitted in the classrooms and must be stored in a locker.



Students are permitted to use their lockers at the appropriate locker time designated for each House. The lockers are the property of the school and are subject to random searches by authorized school personnel.

HOUSE OFFICE

Searches

Students may be subject to search of person or property if a reasonable suspicion exists that the student may have violated the Code of Student Conduct or state or federal law. **Be advised that, upon reasonable suspicion, student lockers and other storage areas (including, but not limited to, book bags, pocketbooks, notebooks, pockets, etc.) may be searched. Additionally, school personnel are permitted to conduct administrative searches for weapons and other contraband absent reasonable suspicion.** In addition, computers and software applications are property of the school and therefore are subject to review and inspection at any time without suspicion or cause.

Electronic Devices / Valuables

Radios, iPods, cell phones, electronic games or similar items such as pagers are prohibited per the Student Code of Conduct. These items will be confiscated and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. Cell phones must be turned off during school hours and stored out of sight. No electronic devices are permitted during FCAT testing. Possession of such devices may be cause for invalidation.

Students are responsible for any personal items brought to school including but not limited to money and jewelry. Items not necessary for educational purposes should be left at home. Students should refrain from leaving money on or in their desks or in their lockers. **The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen property, nor search for the items when the circumstances involve the student's own negligence.**

Selling Items

Selling any items at school whether it is for personal profit or to be donated to a non-profit organization is prohibited.

Lost and Found

Items found in the building or on the school grounds should be turned in to the House Office. You may reclaim your lost property by identifying it. Books will be returned to the appropriate House Office. Please label in particular coats, book bags, and P.E. clothes. Items found in the locker rooms will be placed in the Coaches' Office.

Visitors

All visitors are required to sign in and out at the House Office. Parents requesting to visit his/her child's classes may arrange this through the House Office at least 24 hours in advance. Parents who wish to visit their student's classrooms for any reason must obtain a visitor's pass prior to entering the hallway.

Volunteers

Parents are invited to volunteer for school activities. A mandatory background check must be completed before volunteering in activities that directly involve students. Volunteers may contact the Main Office for information. It is requested that volunteers sign the handbook in the Main Office.

School Hours

Students are not allowed on campus any earlier than 9:15 a.m. and should leave the campus prior to 4:30 p.m. Students that arrive earlier and remain later than these times are not supervised by adults on campus and may result in unsafe and harmful circumstances. Students arriving early must be enrolled in the Morning Opportunity for Remediation and Enrichment (M.O.R.E.) program.

Disaster Drills

Fire drills will be conducted once a month. Students will exit the building in a single file line. All students will move in an orderly and silent manner to a designated evacuation location where the teacher will take attendance. All absences are reported to the House Administrator.

Tornado / Severe Weather Drills will be conducted once a year. Students may be required to evacuate or relocate according to specific teacher instructions. Students are expected to immediately comply with the teacher's directions.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Outside the House, students may have access to support services including Guidance, Elective Courses, Media Center, School Resource Officer, Cafeteria, and Bus Transportation. These support services provide the remaining components for a complete educational experience.

GUIDANCE

Counselors

Guidance counselors are available to assist students with academic, career, and personal/social development. Students may consult with a counselor by making an appointment in their House Office.



Address/Phone Number Change

It is essential that the school maintain accurate address and phone records. Parents should notify the Main Office as well as the House Office immediately if a change of address occurs.

Withdrawals

A student who is withdrawing from school must notify the Records office and the House Office as soon as possible. A parent signature is required on the withdrawal form. All debts and fines must be cleared before transcripts will be forwarded to the new school. **Students moving out of Kernan's school attendance area must transfer to the newly zoned school immediately as they will be automatically withdrawn.**

CAFETERIA

Food Service and Lunch Application

Students may participate in breakfast and lunch programs. During the opening of school, students receive an application for free and reduced meals. These forms are to be filled out completely by the parent/guardian and returned to the homeroom teacher. Those applications received after the deadline will not be eligible for the current school year.

Parents also may set up a lunch account for their student on www.mylunchmoney.com. You will need your child's student number to add money to his/her account.



Student ID Card

All students will receive an ID card to be scanned when purchasing meals.

Prices

Breakfast: Paid: \$1.25 Reduced: \$.30 **Lunch:** Paid: \$2.00 Reduced: \$.40

Behavior

Courteous and appropriate behavior is expected at all times. It is expected that all students follow the following cafeteria guidelines:

- Students are expected to conduct themselves properly in the lunch lines.
- Students are permitted to go through the lunch lines one time only.
- Students are not permitted to go through the cafeteria line with book bags.
- Students are expected to remain seated in their assigned area until dismissed by a faculty member.
- Students are expected to throw away their trash and clean up any spills.
- Students may not take any food or drinks out of the cafeteria.
- Students throwing food or popping food containers i.e. milk cartons, chip bags, will be suspended.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to join the Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) and the School Advisory Council (SAC). Information regarding these meetings is distributed periodically throughout the school year.

MEDIA CENTER

Services and Circulation

Students have the privilege of checking out books and materials from the Media Center. Students also have the responsibility of returning all media material on time. Students may not check out a book for another student. Students may obtain a Media Center Pass from their teacher to visit the media center during the day.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Fines and Fees

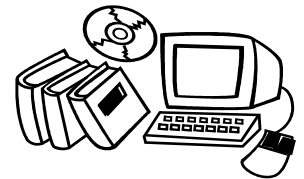
Students must pay for the replacement of lost or damaged books. Students cannot check out books until appropriate fines are paid in full.

Computers

Computer use is encouraged and made available to students for educational purposes. The school retains the ownership of all hardware and software. The school reserves the right to inspect, copy, and/or delete all files and records created or stored on school-owned computers.

Students must observe the following guidelines when using the computers:

- School computers are restricted to school-related assignments. Personal files may not be stored.
- Network password security is the responsibility of the students.
- Students shall not copy, damage, or alter any hardware or software.
- Students shall not use or alter another person's password, files, or directories.
- All non-school software and diskettes must be checked for viruses and approved for use by a network administrator before being used on any computer and are subject to inspection and approval by school personnel at any time.
- Use of all telecommunications is restricted to school-related projects and must be supervised by the teacher or network administrator. Internet users must complete an Internet Use Consent Form, which must be approved before using the Internet.
- Students shall not establish or attempt to establish computer contact into school district restricted computer nets or any other unauthorized databases.



SAFETY

Car Rider Pick Up

Parents picking up their students are to line up in one lane of traffic. It is unsafe for children to cross a lane of traffic to get in a car. Please be courteous and use appropriate protocol for picking up your children after school. No car riders should be picked up in the bus loading zone or the administrative parking lot.

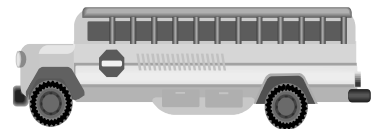
School Resource Officer

A School Police Officer, employed by Duval County Public Schools is present daily, to ensure the safety of our students on school campus, through intervention and enforcement.

Bicycles

Students who ride bicycles to school must walk their bicycles on campus. Bicycles should be parked and locked on the bike rack only. State law requires all cyclists under the age of 16 to wear a helmet. Students not complying with these rules will lose their privilege. **Skateboards, rollerblades, and scooters are not considered a means of transportation to school and therefore are prohibited on campus.**

TRANSPORTATION



Bus Regulations

Students must ride the bus to which they have been assigned and get on and off at their assigned bus stop. Only in the event of an emergency will a student be allowed to ride another bus. In order to get on or off at an unassigned stop, students must bring a signed note by a parent/guardian to the House Office. Drivers will only allow temporary, unassigned students to get on and off at a different stop if approval has been granted by the parent and administrator. The school bus code of conduct is in effect at all times (refer to the Code of Student Conduct). Students are expected to adhere to the bus code of conduct for the safety of every student. Bus passes will only be issued with written parent permission.

Field Trips

Students may have the opportunity to participate in various field trips. Parental written consent for participation is required. The Code of Student Conduct governs student behavior on all field trips. Students who are suspended are not permitted to attend field trips, attend dances or attend any other school sponsored activity.