



John F. Kennedy Memorial  
High School

October 2018  
Volume 29, Issue 1

# ***THE TORCH*** ***NEWSLETTER***

*A State of New Jersey Best Practice School  
A National & State of New Jersey "Learn & Serve" Leader School  
A New Jersey Governor's School of Excellence*

## **WELCOME BACK**

Welcome back! This year at JFKMHS, big changes are occurring. The administrators and staff are working hard to give the students the best anticipated school year yet! During the first week of classes, students were given Chromebooks to help with their studies. Not only will they be computers, but the Chromebooks given to the freshmen through juniors will also turn into tablets! If any issues are found with your Chromebook, incident forms will be located in all homerooms to fill out and given to your homeroom teacher. You will be called down within a day or so to have the issue resolved.

In sports news, the Mustangs suffered a loss against Colonia in their first game out for the season. The game was a tough loss but came back the following week this past weekend to beat Bishop Ahr last Friday the 21st at home! Come out to show support to our football team each Friday and remember to wear school colors!

All announcements about upcoming events will be said over the announcements every morning, so pay attention and don't miss all new updates on school events and clubs! Especially if you're a senior or new to the school. It is great to get involved early in high school. You will make more friends, be more involved and have an overall better high school experience!

by Sabrina Youk

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## A Message From Our Principal



The 2018-2019 school year is well underway and your sons and daughters should be engaged in curricular and extra-curricular activities at this point. At our opening class assemblies this year, the important theme of **“Respect is the Key to Success”** was emphasized to our students. Our students are being challenged to achieve excellence in Academics, Athletics and the Arts. In addition, treating all of their peers with respect as well as respect to all adults in the building is a goal that will be stressed throughout the school year. The reinforcement of the theme by parents and guardians will certainly increase our students’ chances for a successful school year and high achievement.

We are especially proud of the following achievements during the 2017-2018 school year:

- AP enrollment up. Most ever WTSD history – great scores – congrats – 71%
- 75% of our 2018 graduating class met the 10 hr requirement “Community Service”
- NHS – was able to collect 120 pints of blood
- Raised \$6,000 for several charity organizations
- Band & chorus members received several awards for their performances & Show Choir, Concert Choir, and Chamber Choir received honors in Dorney Park.
- GMC – Championships in Boys’ Track
- We had students go to Rutgers University, Princeton University, NJIT, TCNJ, University of VA, University of North Carolina, Montclair State, Monmouth University & NYU.

John F. Kennedy has strong traditions of academic excellence and established partnerships with its community. Kennedy’s diverse community is a microcosm of today’s society. We value our diversity, acknowledge the many different languages spoken by our students, and strive to recognize and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual. This uniqueness coupled with a strong sense of community lends itself to the following quote.

“What makes a good school has very little to do with how rich or poor the students are or the type of curriculum that’s taught. It has very little to do with special programs, expensive playing fields, snappy uniforms, or whether the school is wired to the Internet. What makes a good school, whether it’s public or private, religious or non-religious, charter or non-charter is a feeling. A feeling shared by the entire staff and student body that their school is special. A feeling that their school really belongs to them.”

P. Manna

### That’s JFKMHS.

Please be assured that our entire staff is committed to the theme **“Respect is the Key to Success”** as we work with your sons and daughters this school year. Each and every one of us, from teachers and administration to support staff, are dedicated to providing the best possible educational experience for our students. Our children, our community, and our future deserve no less. We wish our students the very best for the 2018-2019 school year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael A. Cianta".

**John F. Kennedy Memorial  
High School Newsletter**

The John F. Kennedy Memorial High School Newsletter is published four times a year. It is prepared at Kennedy using Microsoft Publisher. The electronic file is made available on the JFK Website.

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Vice Principal  
Steve Caroscio,  
Vice Principal

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Faith DelGado...Editor  
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SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
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**2018 — 2019  
School Calendar**



September

First Day of School ..... September 5  
Rosh Hashanah ..... September 10

October

Employee In-Service Day ..... October 8

November

Fall Recess ..... November 3—11  
Thanksgiving Recess ..... November 22, 23

December

Winter Recess ..... December 22—28

January

Winter Recess (cont'd) ..... January 1  
Martin Luther King Day ..... January 21

February

Presidents' Day ..... February 18

March

Spring Recess ..... April 22-26

May

Memorial Day ..... May 27

June

Last Day of School ..... June 21



**PLEASE NOTE:**

Unused storm days  
will be used to extend Spring Recess and/or  
Memorial Day Recess.

Additional inclement weather days  
will be made up during other vacation times  
at the discretion of the Board of Education.



## Join the JFK Parent-Faculty Forum

The Parent-Faculty Forum is an organization of concerned JFK parents and staff members. Throughout the course of the school year, the Parent-Faculty Forum hosts various fundraisers to raise money for scholarships for our JFK students. The dues for the Parent-Faculty Forum are \$10 per family. In order for your child to be eligible for a scholarship from the Parent-Faculty Forum, your family must be paid members. Please join the Parent-Faculty Forum and help support our students.

Fill out the form below and return it with your check for \$10 to the Main Office, Attention: Parent Faculty Forum. Please make your check payable to *John F. Kennedy Memorial High School PFF*. Funds raised during the course of the school year will benefit your child!

JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL Parent-Faculty Forum Membership	
NAME OF STUDENT(S): _____	PHONE # _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____	STUDENT(S) GRADE(S): _____
ADDRESS _____	
STUDENT(S) HOMEROOM(S) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Check Enclosed
Please do not send cash through the mail	

## Interim Report and Report Card Dates

Marking Period	Starts	Interim Reports Posted	Ends	Report Cards Posted Parent Access
1	9/5/18	10/11/18	11/15/18	11/21/18
2	11/16/18	1/2/19	1/31/19	2/5/19
3	2/1/19	3/5/19	4/5/19	4/10/19
4	4/8/19	5/20/19	6/21/19	6/21/19



## Kennedy Senior Honored By National Merit Scholarship Program

**By Alison Kirk**

John F. Kennedy Counseling Department is proud to recognize that senior Niranjana Behera has been honored as a Commended Student in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Over 1.6 million students took the PSAT/NMSQT last October and entered the scholarship competition. At this stage of the competition, 34,000 high performers are being named Commended Students based on their Selection Index score. Although Commended Students do not continue in

the competition for National Merit® Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations. Always seeking challenge, Niranjana has selected and mastered some of our school's most rigorous Honors and Advanced Placement courses, while participating in extracurricular activities on our campus. We sincerely hope this well-deserved recognition will enhance his educational opportunities and encourage him in his pursuit of academic and collegiate success. Congratulations to Niranjana!



## JFKMHS Students--It's never too early to by your Yearbook!

The Yearbook staff would like to remind you that if you have yet to purchase a yearbook, now would be the time to do so! Nothing else can immortalize the memories you have of high school quite like a yearbook can, and you might feel quite a bit of regret if you fail to purchase one while you still can. This year's yearbook is shaping up to be one of the best ones that John F. Kennedy has seen, with the unique theme of "US," truly personalizing this year's Camelot edition.



Even if you're not a senior, it's still a great idea to purchase a yearbook, especially if you have any upperclassmen friends that will be featured in the yearbook. Although the price may seem a tad steep, it's nigh impossible to put a price on memories. It is hard to argue that buying a yearbook isn't worthwhile, especially when it lets you reflect back on your high school years with relative ease. If you have yet to buy yours, make sure you get one before it is too late. Please visit [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com) to purchase your yearbook! Any questions students can visit Mrs. Miller or Ms. O'Brien's SchoolWires pages.

## Don't miss out on the **CAMELOT 2019** – This year's theme is **“Honor the ‘K’”**

	Offer 1	Offer 2	Offer 3	Offer 4
	Expires October 4th	Expires November 8th	Expires January 24th	Expires May 25th
Yearbook Only	\$ 85	\$ 90	\$ 95	\$ 100
Year- book, Name, Icons, Then & Now	\$ 140 Icons Free	\$157 \$3 per Icon Up to 4 Icons	\$162	Unavaila- ble
Year- book, Name, Icons	\$ 90 Icons Free	\$ 107 \$3 per Icon Up to 4 Icons	\$ 112	Unavaila- ble

### Purchasing Information:

- ☞ Order online at [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com) or
- ☞ Download an order form from Mrs. Miller's School Wires

### Add to Cart:

- ☞ Personalized Name and Icons
- ☞ Senior Then and Now's—Pictures and messages are to be email to Ms. O'Brien or Mrs. Miller when purchasing.



## JFK French Honor Society

By Sabrina Yock

The Kennedy French Honors Society dedicated their time and efforts this past Sunday to help clean a section of Beach J at Sandy Hook National Recreation Gateway. Over the course of four hours, they collected an astonishing amount of thirteen bags of trash! The six members and their advisor, Mrs. McCann, covered the area: about four to five miles on foot. With such a small number of students, the work they did showed how dedicated they are to making a difference. Congratulations French Honors Society members!





## JFK Welcomes New Staff Members

**Tracy Blauvelt:** Is our new guidance counselor. Mrs. Blauvelt attended Stonehill College in Massachusetts for her undergraduate degree, and Seton Hall University for her Masters' Degree. She has been a Guidance Counselor in the high school setting for the past 11 years, and very happy to be working here at JFK. "Students and faculty have been very welcoming and supportive!"

In addition to being a working Mom of five children, Mrs. Blauvelt enjoys boating, water sports, and mostly any outdoor activity. She has been active as a volunteer with Colonia Youth Soccer and St. John Vianney CCD program.

**Lauen Buettel:** Is a JFKMHS alumni. She is our school nurse on Mondays and Wednesdays.

**Danielle Burns:** Is a former JFKMHS student. She loved JFK so much she is back with us after working in Linden. She is co-teaching with Mrs. Palotti this year. Welcome her to our building when you see her.

**Christine Chynoweth:** Christine Chynoweth is one of 2 new American Sign Language teachers at JFK. She attended Montclair State University where she studied linguistics. She previously taught



ASL at Montclair State University and Raritan Valley Community College. Her hobbies include videogames, signing, home improvement, and attending the NY Renaissance Faire.

**Jessica Gloster:** I graduated from Kean University as a Teacher of the Deaf and hold additional certifications in Special Education and Elementary Education. I serve on the board of the Presidents' Council of Woodbridge Township and I volunteer as much time as I can to my children's schools and to being a Girl Scout leader. Currently, I live in Colonia with my husband and four children. In my free time I enjoy watching my children play sports, going to the movies, and traveling.

**Allison Jones:** I grew up in Woodbridge Township and attended JFK High School as a student. After High School, I graduated from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) with a degree in History and Education and am currently attending Rutgers University where I am working on a Masters in Special Education. I am excited to be back as a full-time staff member here at JFK and look forward to having an awesome school year. Go Mustangs! .

**Patrick O'Connor:** I am a Special Education teacher at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School within the Woodbridge School District. I finished my Master's Degree in Education at Georgian Court University this past May. I have previously taught for 5 years at Woodbridge Middle School working under Dr. Crowe. I have previously worked as a Behavioral Counselor for Devereux Foundation, I oversaw a vocational program as well as group home at Enable Incorporated and worked for New Horizons in Autism. I continue to spend my days not only teaching in a classroom but also making time for learning experiences in and out of the classroom. Knowledge is our greatest resource and it is important to keep adding to your compendium.

## New Staff Members

**Jason Ortwine:** I graduated from William Paterson University with a Bachelor's in Mathematics. I grew up in Michigan and began my college career at Michigan State (Go Green!). I taught at Passaic Valley Regional High School for 6 years before being hired at AMS. I spent one year at AMS, and now I'm at JFK High School teaching Computer Science. I love college sports, specifically football, but really enjoy any athletic competition.

**Felicita Ramos:** Is our new math teacher for this 2018-2019 school year. Ms Ramos has been teaching for 14 years. Ms Ramos originally wanted to design video games. She was told in college that she was good at explaining things to her fellow classmates and at the top of her game when it came to math so she decided to become a teacher.

Ms Ramos has had the great opportunity of working with different kids from all different parts of New Jersey. She has worked at Avenel Middle School, Woodbridge High School, and Carteret High School before coming to JFK. Believe it or not

Ms. Ramos's favorite subject was not always math as a matter of fact she favored gym and science more.

**Nicole Rivero:** I was born in Staten Island, NY and lived in Brooklyn, NY. I moved to New Jersey when I was 8 years old and attended Middletown North High School. I enjoyed my high school experience so much that it inspired me to become a teacher myself. My favorite subjects in high school were Biology and Math and while in college, I was torn between the two. I finally made my decision to become a math teacher because I realized how many students struggle in math and I wanted to be a teacher who could help them to understand mathematical concepts. I attended Brookdale Community College and transferred to Kean University to complete my educational career. This is my ninth year teaching and I am really excited to be a part of the JFK family.

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teacher who could help them to understand mathematical concepts. I attended Brookdale Community College and transferred to Kean University to complete my educational career. This is my ninth year teaching and I am really excited to be a part of the JFK family.

**Shirley Sexton:** Is a former SAC councilor at JFK. Mrs. Sexton is back with us as our school nurse in a long term position. Mrs. Sexton is with us Tuesday's, Thursday's and Friday's.

**Stephen Toro:** I graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor's in English. I'm a lifelong resident on Woodbridge Township and graduated from Colonia High School. I was a substitute teacher here for 7 years before being hired this summer. My hobbies include photography, watching football, and going to concerts.

**Welcome to the  
Best High School  
in  
Woodbridge!**

## WTSD SAT Test Dates



<b>SAT Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Late Registration Deadline</b>
August 25, 2018	July 27, 2018	August 15, 2018
October 6, 2018	September 7, 2018	September 26, 2018
November 3, 2018	October 5, 2018	October 24, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 20, 2018
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019	February 27, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 24, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 22, 2019

## RWJUH Safety Ambassador Program

*By: Mrs. Mary Panko*

For a second year a select group of juniors and seniors will be participating in the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Safety Ambassadors Program. The program is designed to have high school students, interested in the education or medical fields, teach elementary students about some of the problems emergency room doctors see as preventable among young kids. This is an opportunity for our JFKMHS students to volunteer in a leadership capacity and act as role models for younger children in their community.

The Safety Ambassadors began their work in October when they attended a "Safety Summit." At the summit, RWJUH's Injury Prevention team members briefed them on the safety topics they needed to cover with their young peers -- fall prevention, pedestrian safety, wheeled sports/helmet



safety and safety in and around cars. The Safety Ambassadors will take the information to prepare safety lessons, which they will teach to first and second grade students at a local elementary school in the district between February and May.

Coordinated at JFKMHS by Mrs. Panko and Mr. Koch, the Safety Ambassador Program provides numerous opportunities for improving presentation skills, leadership development, and promoting teamwork.





## SAT BOOT CAMP

The first of three SAT Boot Camps took place on Saturday, September 29th at Woodbridge High School. This free morning of SAT tutoring was provided to close to 200 pre-registered WTSD seniors who were looking for a refresher course prior to the October 6th and October 10th SAT exams. The preparation course, that consisted of a two hour math session and a two hour language arts session, with a half hour break in between, was taught by 10 of our own WTSD high school math and language arts teachers. Between 8:30 am and 1:00 pm, the students reviewed key testing concepts in both subjects and were drilled on essential information for testing success.

The additional SAT Boot Camps that will be held during the course of the 2018-2019 school year will be on February 23rd, for junior students, and on May 1st, for junior and sophomore students. This tutoring will serve as preparation before the March and May/June SAT exams, respectively. The registration for these sessions will be available via Google Form link in the weeks leading up to the boot camps.

## Student Council Fall Happenings

### Student Council Events:

September: Student Council Representatives are selected to represent each homeroom.

October:  
Spirit week and Spirit Games .school wide. Once again, the Seniors took home top honors.

### Upcoming Student Council Events

November:  
St. James Pantry Thanksgiving Food Drive (school wide collection)

December: Breakfast with Santa. Saturday December 8, 2018 from 9am until 1pm.

January: TBD

February: Have A Heart Food Drive (school wide collection)

February/March: Pennies for Patients (coin collection for Leukemia - student council members will visit homerooms for spare change/pennies to collect)

March/April:  
Student Council Members will be selling Joe Corbi's Pizza (fundraiser) - Can order from any Student Council Member



May: Student Council will be hosting a Multicultural Day in our school courtyard for our students during all three lunches. May is also JFK Student Elections (Class Officers as well as Student Council Officers) for the following school year.

## ***Mustang Sports Update from the Athletic Director***

Winter Sports at JFK are Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls Bowling, Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Ice Hockey (Colonia/Woodbridge) Coed-Swimming, Competition Cheerleading and Wrestling.

Winter Sports Physicals for the 2018-2019 school year will be due on October 26, 2018 along with the signature page and emergency contact form. Physicals can be turned in to the main office or the Athletic Director, Mr. Daly. Emergency Forms, Concussion Forms, NJSIAA Steroid Testing Consent Forms and the Student/Athlete Contract can all be found on our Athletics homepage. These forms should be printed and filled out in their entirety. Please submit the Concussion Forms and NJSIAA Steroid Testing Consent Forms to the main office. Please submit the Emergency Forms and Student/Athlete Contract to the HEAD COACH.

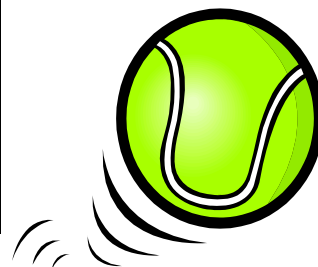
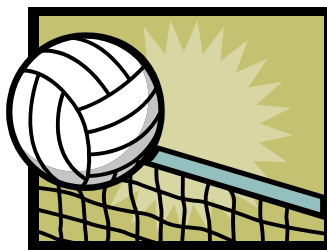
Sports Physicals are different than those physicals required to enter JFK. All Sports Physicals are valid for 365 calendar days. Students who have a valid physical that will expire after the due date or during the season are asked to schedule the appointment within a reasonable amount of time after the physical expires.

PLEASE NOTE: A Sports Physical MUST be completed by a physician, not a chiropractor. Also, ALL information in PART A and PART B should be completed and no information should be left blank. If for some reason you will be getting a Sports Physical out of state please bring these forms with you to the physician.

If the student has already had a physical in the past 365 days, they need to turn in a health history questionnaire.

### **FALL 2018 SPORTS UPDATE**

For schedules and other news, visit <https://www.greatermiddlesexconference.org/public/genie/343/school/9/> or follow MUSTANG Athletics on Twitter @jfkms. If you have any questions about our athletics programs please contact Sean Daly, the Athletic Director, at 732-602-8656.







# JFK Athletics

## Varsity Program Offerings



### Fall

### Winter

### Spring

Football  
Boys' Soccer  
Girls' Soccer  
Boys' Cross Country  
Girls' Cross Country  
Girls' Tennis  
Girls' Volleyball  
Cheerleading

Wrestling  
Boys' Basketball  
Girls' Basketball  
Boys' Bowling  
Girls' Bowling  
Coed Swimming  
Boys' Indoor Track  
Girls' Indoor Track  
Ice Hockey  
Competition Cheerleading

Baseball  
Softball  
Boys' Tennis  
Boys' Volleyball  
Golf  
Boys' Outdoor Track  
Girls' Outdoor Track

**GET INVOLVED!**

*You can only participate in ONE SPORT per SEASON*

Over 50% of student-athletes participate in 2 sports each year

Over 25% of student-athletes participate in 3 sports each year

Over 50% of student-athletes are on the honor roll

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>
Football	Peter.Christathakis@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Boys' Soccer	Joseph.Migacz@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Girls' Soccer	Dawn.Santana@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Boys' Cross Country (fall)	Matthew.Weidele@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Girls' Cross Country (fall)	Leah.Wernsing@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Girls' Tennis	John.Kohutanycz@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Girls' Volleyball	Sebastiann.deVoogd@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Wrestling	Matthew.Creighton@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Ice Hockey(whole school district)	Christopher.Monticollo@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Boys' Basketball	Sebastiann.deVoogd@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Girls' Basketball	Ryan.Murphy@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Boys' and Girls' Bowling	Erica.Creutz@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Coed-Swimming	Jonathan.Kohutanycz@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Boys' Indoor Track and Field (winter)	Robert.Herre@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Girls' Indoor Track and Field (winter)	Leah.Wernsing@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Baseball	Warren.Rotella@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Softball	Maureen.Gallagher@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Boys' Volleyball	Michael.Henderson@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Golf	Joseph.Kirk@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Boys' Tennis	John.Kohutanycz@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Boys' Outdoor Track (spring)	Robert.Herre@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Girls' Outdoor Track (spring)	Peter.Christathakis@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Cheerleading	Sarah.Szoke@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us
Comp-Cheerleading	Sarah.Szoke@Woodbridge.k12.nj.us

Questions? Please contact the Athletic Director: Sean Daly

Athletic Office: 732-602-8656 Fax: 732-326-9336 Main Office: 732-602-8650

## Mustang Nation Homecoming

By Najai Nelson

Last Friday, October 12th game was a Homecoming disappointment.. The Woodbridge Barrons ended up coming out on top with a score of 26-21. At the beginning of the first quarter, David Lee scored the Mustang's first touchdown and we continued to shine. However, things changed at the end of the 4th quarter, the Mustangs had scored what seemed to be the winning touchdown with the score of 21-20. But, with only 10 seconds left, Woodbridge scored a touchdown leaving the score 26-21. The Mustangs felt that loss, and you could tell that everyone in the stands and on the team, were upset. On a lighter note, volleyball captain, Julianna Impaglia was crowned JFK's 2018

Homecoming Queen. With Kristen Javier coming in second. Even though the boys didn't win, they still played amazing and could come out on top at their senior night against Edison this Friday, October 19th.





## ***Girls' Varsity Soccer Update***

### ***JFKMHS v.s. South Brunswick- Girls Volleyball***



By Najai Nelson

On Wednesday, October 10, the girls of JFK's volleyball team had their annual senior night to honor Captains Ariana Silva and Julianna Impaglia. Also the other senior teammates Jillian Sims, Kayleigh Larocque, Mya Hernandez. The girls were having a great season, they made it to their homecoming game with an overall of 10-0. But sadly, as the season was coming to an end, the girls started to fall short on their wins. At last night's game, they went against South Brunswick and had the crowd on the edge of their seats with that close score in the

first set, but lost it. Then the second set, the girls were playing their hardest and almost had the win. But, South Brunswick came out with the win of 25-17. Ending the game in a loss of 0-2. Even though their last games weren't so successful, the girls still had a really good season. There are only a few more games left until GMC's. We'll see if the girls can dominate the competition and end the season on a high note. Stay tuned for highlights.



# United We Stand

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E



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N

**John F. Kennedy Memorial  
High School  
200 Washington Avenue  
Iselin, NJ 08830**

## **JFK Memorial High School Important Telephone Numbers**

Main Office: 732-602-8650

Attendance: 732-602-3509

Guidance: 732-602-8669

Athletics: 732-602-8656

Nurse: 732-602-8664

