November

2026



Kinard Middle School

Mustang News

Principal
Lindsey Matkin

Assistant Principals
Kyle Healy
Erin LaRue

Main Line
970-488-5400

Attendance Line
970-488-5401

Visit our website to learn more about Kinard.

Like

Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

Congratulations to all of our fall sports teams on a successful season! At the start of the school year, over 350 students joined one of our athletics teams. Our goal is to help develop our student-athletes as people and competitors. Sports provide a unique opportunity where kids learn important life skills like teamwork, perseverance, communication, and work ethic. At times, they also learn difficult lessons like how to work through disappointment and frustration. Our coaches use the avenue of athletics to help instill confidence and character in our students. By building and fostering positive relationships, and by focusing on so much more than the scoreboard, we provide a foundation that allows students to safely engage at highly competitive levels… and wow did we ever!

Every one of our teams competed at a high level and made us proud. Here are a few highlights from the fall:

- Our boys and girls **tennis teams** went undefeated en route to winning both the boys and girls district tournaments. For our girls, that is 5 years in a row as champions, and for our boys, it is an unprecedented 13 years in a row!

- Our **cross country** runners were strong all year long and finished the season with our girls winning first place and capturing the district championship! Our boys were neck and neck with the competition and finished second. Both teams competed in the state championship race on Saturday, October 24. The boys finished second in the state and just 5 points behind the winners. Our girls capped off their incredible season by winning the state championship by almost 50 points! That's back to back state championships for our girls team!

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Advertising in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by Poudre School District.



Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

continued

- Our inaugural **boys soccer** season finished with a well deserved third place as the boys were able to beat a team that beat them earlier in the season.
- Our **girls volleyball team** also finished the season in third place as they played some of their best volleyball of the year in their final game!
- Our **boys football team** went undefeated all the way through the championship where they capped off the year with a big win. Congratulations to the football team on their district championship!

Up next in athletics is boys basketball! For up-to-date athletics information and results, visit our Athletics Webpage.





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Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!

Reach parents in your local community & a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school!

Want to sponsor this school?

Please contact

Rob Mangelson at Rob@tscacolorado.com or (720) 878-4107.

Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

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Your Family's Future *Starts Here*

Sarah Tyler
Global Real Estate Advisor
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Fall Athletics- A Huge Success!

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COLORADO OCD
& ANXIETY TREATMENT
Evidence-based care. Compassionate support. Lasting change.
BOULDER | FORT COLLINS

Specialized OCD & Anxiety Treatment
For Middle & High School Students
Evidence-based therapy for OCD, anxiety, and related concerns.
In-person care in Boulder & Fort Collins, with telehealth available throughout Colorado.

SPECIALTIES
- OCD & Intrusive Thoughts
- Anxiety & Phobias
- Perfectionism
- School-Related Anxiety & Avoidance
- Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors
- Family Accommodation
- Trauma-Related Concerns

EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT
- Exposure & Response Prevention (ERP)
- Inference-Based CBT (I-CBT)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT)
- EMDR
- SPACE Parent Support

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT FOR TEENS & FAMILIES
Helping students better understand and manage OCD, anxiety, intrusive thoughts, perfectionism, phobias, and related concerns.

READY TO CONNECT?
(720) 213-6077 • info@coocdanxietytreatment.com
Boulder • Fort Collins • Telehealth Throughout Colorado
www.coloradoocdanxietytreatment.com

CANS Around the Oval

Congratulations and special thanks to Kinard Global Leadership for facilitating the CANS Around the Oval food drive at Kinard last month. The fundraiser was a record-breaking success for our school and community as we collected over 2,700 pounds of food and raised over $14,000 for donation to the Larimer County Food Bank. This equates to more than 29,000 meals for families with food insecurity in our community.

The top 3 winning 1st period classes in the school were Mr. Wheeler in 6th, Mr. Graham in 7th, and Mrs. Houston in 8th. Regardless of who came in first and how much they donated, we all came together as a school to make a difference within our community. We are all so grateful for the amazing efforts of our Mustangs to help those in need in our community.

The SLiCE organization at Colorado State University facilitates the CANS Around the Oval event which results in hundreds of thousands of pounds of food collected every year. Thank you, Kinard families- we couldn't have done it without you!





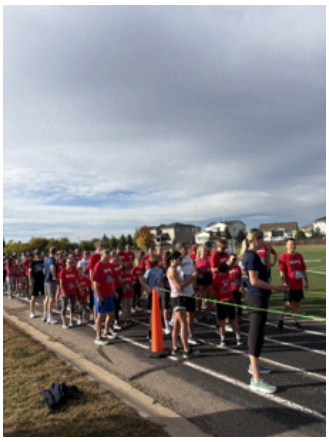
Music Department Celebrations

It has been a busy last month in the world of music at Kinard! From concerts to 5ks, our music teachers and students are demonstrating how hard work, consistent practice, and a dedication to learning combine to make amazing results.

Mustang Music 5K and Fun Run

To start off October, we had an amazing time at the sixth annual Mustang Music 5K and Fun Run to benefit our Band program! Mr. Perez, our awesome students, and our generous parent volunteers organized such an incredible community event! We are already looking forward to this event again next year.







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Music Department Celebrations *continued*

Fall Music Concerts

October also brought our first concerts of the year! The Philharmonia and the Symphony Orchestras, directed by Mrs. Griffey, partnered with the Mustang Chorale, directed by Mr. Wheeler, for a joint concert that showcased the many talents of our vocal and instrumental music programs. Then, the Intermediate, Honors, and Symphonic Bands played their first concert of the school year in front of a packed audience. Great job, Mustang Musicians!







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Music Department Celebrations *continued*

Nordic Invitational

Both our Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra performed beautifully at their first festival adjudication, The Nordic Invitational at Lesher Middle School, in late October. They received the highest marks from the adjudicators and clinicians who reviewed them and shared feedback for improvement in a working clinic. Way to go, Mrs. Griffey, Mr. Perez, and all of the Mustang musicians who participated!





Give Next Kickoff Day

On October 13, Kinard was one of 33 middle & high school schools (650 students!) across Larimer County that attended the 2026 Give Next Kickoff Day. At Colorado State University, students connected with over 50 local nonprofit leaders to explore issues facing communities in Larimer County. They learned how local nonprofits & individuals work together to address these issues, and they identified ways they can make a difference in our community. Over the next few weeks, Give Next students will work collaboratively to develop a mission statement and will start to interview nonprofits that align with their grantmaking goals. Mrs. Flemming and Mrs. Houston facilitate Kinard's Give Next Club every Wednesday after school. Students of all grade levels are welcome to join at any point during the year!

Give Next is a school-based grantmaking program for middle and high school students in Larimer County. Through the Give Next program, local businesses, foundations, and individuals become classroom donors by providing each participating school with $5,000 to award to nonprofits in Larimer County. With the financial support of these generous donors, students design and manage their own grantmaking programs. Give Next is made possible through the support of many community partners; primary program implementation partners are Bohemian Foundation and the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado.







Kinard C.A.R.E.S. Community Service

In early October, students in Kinard C.A.R.E.S. took a short field trip to Twin Silo Park, partnering with the City of Fort Collins Parks Department and Volunteer Services to give back to the community. Students planted a variety of plants, spread mulch to support the park's many trees, and got their hands dirty for a good cause. Along the way, they learned how the city maintains this shared public space right in our own backyard and helped make it even more beautiful and sustainable by adding plants that attract pollinators and support a healthy ecosystem.









Important Student Laptop Reminders

We have a very limited number of spare laptops to distribute to students, and we must prioritize using the spares for students whose computers are broken or in for repair. Therefore, please help your child to bring their laptop to school each morning. Here are some helpful reminders for students:

- **Every Night:** plug in your laptop to *charge overnight*
- **Every Day:** bring your *fully charged laptop* to school *each day*
- **Laptop Care:** handle the laptop carefully and store it in a safe location

Mustang Spirit Gear

Did you miss our first ordering window for Kinard apparel at the beginning of the school year? Well now's your chance - order from Garretson's Sport Center today! Click here to purchase online. This ordering window will close on Sunday, November 22, so order now to get your items as soon as possible. Items will arrive before the end of the semester, so these would be great holiday gifts for all the Mustangs in your life!

Student Opportunity to Travel to France in June of 2028

There will be an information meeting on Tuesday, November 17 from 6PM-7PM in the Media Center about an opportunity for current 7th grade French students or 6th graders who plan on studying French to travel to France in June of 2028. Questions? Contact Madame Lundeen at clundeen@psdschools.org.

The Great Kinard Bake Off- Just Desserts

Who is the best baker at Kinard? Which bakery, chocolatier, or ice creamer is your favorite? Come to 'The Great Kinard Bake Off - Just Desserts' on Saturday, December 12th from 3:30 - 5:00pm. Try samples from local bakeries and sweet shoppes from all around Northern Colorado. Pre-order holiday pies, cookie dough, and butter braids to pick up and enjoy for the holiday break. Plus, vote for and crown The Cookie Conqueror - the top staff baker at Kinard! A $10 ticket gets you 5 samples and a whole lot of fun. Tickets and pre-orders go on sale Friday, October 30th at https://www.kinardchoir.com/events-1. All proceeds go to the Kinard & Preston Choirs to Carnegie Hall journey this May.

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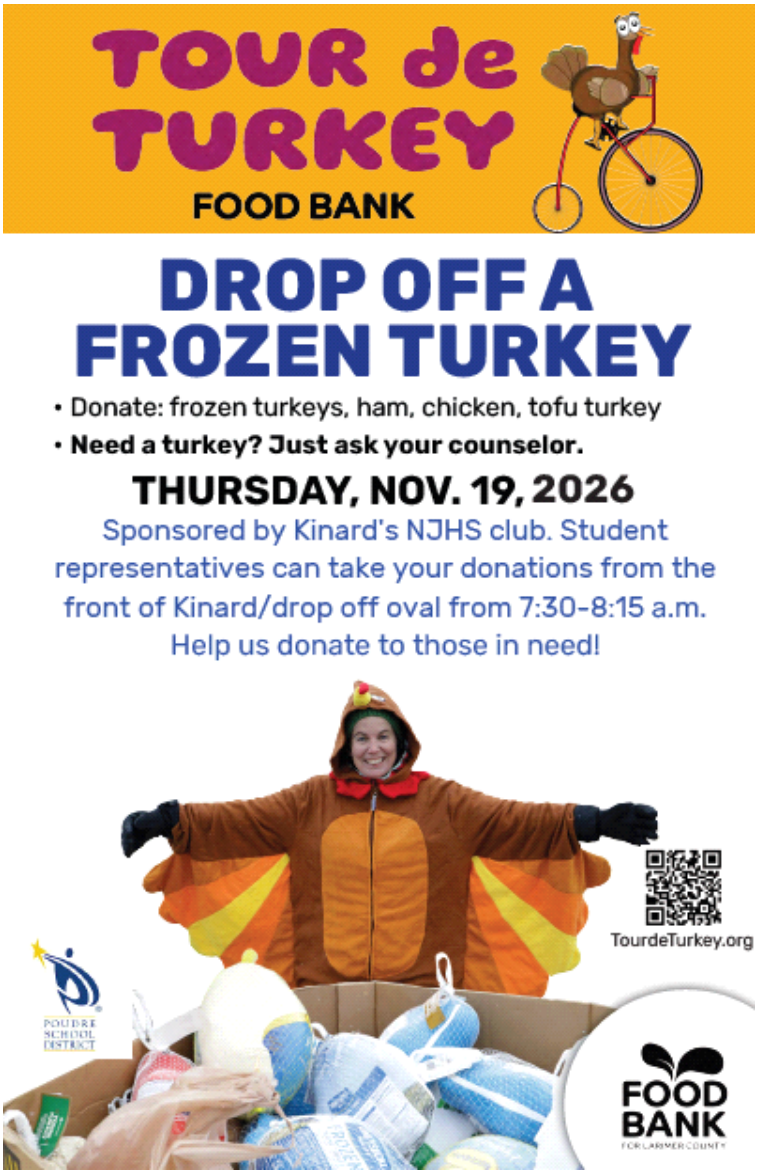
The Great Kinard Bake Off- Just Desserts

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Turkey Round Up

We're excited to invite you to join us once again for the Tour de Turkey, a heartwarming fundraiser to help ensure that everyone can enjoy a yummy Thanksgiving dinner! Mark your calendars for **November 19th from 7:30 to 8:15 AM**—our NJHS students will help by collecting your donations straight from the drop-off line in the oval of the main parking lot. Bring in ***frozen*** turkeys, hams, or chickens to donate—to help fill a plate and bring smiles! We'll be donating all the food to the Larimer County Food Bank. Please note: We are unable to accept monetary donations in person; however you can donate using the QR code below and mentioning "Kinard Middle School Turkey Round Up" in the "Dedication" section. Let's come together to make this holiday special for everyone! If you have questions, please contact Nicole Darrow at ndarrow@psdschools.org. Hope to see you there!



8th Grade Transition to High School

Positive transitions are a large part of a successful middle school experience. Thus, Poudre School District intentionally creates opportunities to assist students as they move from one level to the next. Please review the information below regarding the transition events for our high schools in PSD.

- All students have an assigned home high school based on their home address.
- If you are planning to have your child attend a high school other than their designated feeder school, the PSD School Choice application must be completed by **December 16, 2026.** Please visit the PSD School Options and Choice website for more details.
- The comprehensive high schools in PSD are offering evening informational nights for incoming freshman and prospective students. See below for a list of dates or visit each school's website for more details. We will also update 8th grade families as we learn of other registration events from the various PSD high schools.
- In late January, high school counselors will visit Kinard to help students with the registration process for 9th grade courses.

If you have any questions about high school transitions, please contact Patti Young, Counselor (student last names A-G), at pyoung@psdschools.org or (970)488-5406 or Karen Irvine, Counselor (student last names H-Z), at kirvine@psdschools.org or (970)488-5408.

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8th Grade Transition to High School

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Fort Collins High School	**8th Grade Open House** • December 2nd, 2026; 6:00-7:30pm **Registration Q & A** • January 28th, 2027; 6:00-7:30pm FCHS Registration Website
Fossil Ridge High School	**Fossil Ridge Open House** • December 3rd, 2026, 6-8pm **9th Grade Registration Q & A Night** • January 27th, 2027, 6-7:30pm **FRHS Class of 2030 website**
Poudre Global Academy	**PGA K-12 School information Nights November 10th and January 21st, 5:30-6:30** Tours every Tuesday 9:15-9:45 at PGA: Sign up here
Poudre High School	**Poudre Preview Night** • Tuesday November 17th 5:30-7:30pm **IB Information Nights** • November 2nd: 5:30-6:30pm @ Lesher MS • November 9th: 5:30-6:30pm @ Lincoln MS • November 10th: 5:30-6:30pm @ CLP MS • November 18th: 5:30-6:30pm @ PSD Future Ready Center
Rocky Mountain High School	**Rocky Open House and Curriculum Fair** • November 18th 6:00-8:00 pm **8th Grade Registration Q&A Night** • January 25th
Timnath Middle-High School	**Timnath High School Incoming 9th Grade Night & Curriculum Fair** • December 2nd, 2026, 5:30-8pm **Evening Tours** **Morning Tours**
Polaris	**Middle & High School Open House** • 6-12 Student-hosted Secondary Open House- Nov. 10, 5-7 PM
Wellington Middle-High School	**Will arrange individual tours/appointments for students coming from other schools.**

Support for Families in Need

We are heading into the time of year where some community organizations are offering support to families in a variety of ways (e.g., food baskets, coats, holiday gifts, etc.). We know there are circumstances families face that create needs for support. If your family would like to be considered for support, please fill out this linked confidential Google survey that our counselors will use to get you connected to helpful resources. While we cannot guarantee that an organization can fulfill every request, we want to gather information to best support our families where possible. You can also click on this link to access community resources: 211

Please reach out to our school counselors with any questions:
Patti Young (student last names A-G): (970) 488-5406, pyoung@psdschools.org
Karen Irvine (student last names H-Z): (970) 488-5408, kirvine@psdschools.org

Book Fair- Coming Soon!

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming! This can't-miss event gets kids excited about reading and earns funds for our school. **SAVE THE DATE for December 9 - 12** and start exploring together: https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/kinardcoremiddlesch



Important Yearbook Information

The 2026-27 Kinard yearbook is available for purchase! Make sure that your child doesn't miss out on our yearbook tradition. It's the only book that captures the year's events, activities, friendships, experiences, and memories from Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School. You may place your order for the yearbook at jostens.com. If you have already purchased a book, thank you! If you are unsure, please contact Ally Lonac, Yearbook Advisor, by email at alonac@psdschools.org. This year's book is one you won't want to miss!

8th Grade Parents/Guardians:

It's not too late to order one of the famous 8th grade recognition ads (baby ads) that you see in the back of the yearbook each year for your 8th grader!



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Important Yearbook Information *continued*

2027 8TH GRADE RECOGNITION ADS for Kinard Middle School

ORDER YOUR ADS AT

www.TheYearbookCompany.com

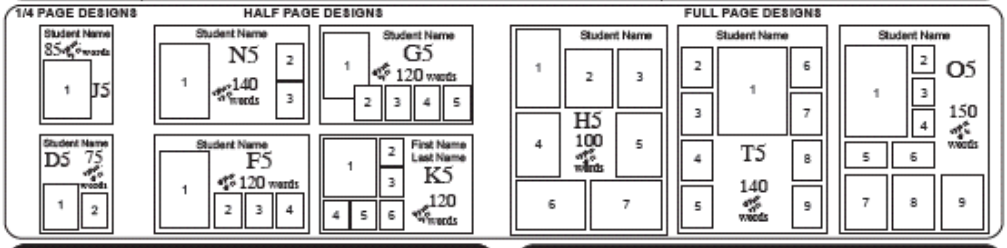
Fill out this form **only** if you are submitting your ad by mail. Otherwise, please see the choices below to prepare to upload your photos and message online.

3 SIMPLE STEPS

Yearbook ad sales a fundraiser for the school and are non-refundable. And don't forget to order the yearbook (not included with the ad) too!

STEP 1 Place an "X" in the boxes to indicate the size and format. Visit www.theyearbookcompany.com for format and character counts.

		early-bird price if postmarked by OCTOBER 30	*final deadline** price if postmarked by NOVEMBER 17
☐ *1/8 page ad*	☐ Format "A5" ☐ 40 words ← half the size of the 1/4 ad with one photo and message	$45	$60
☐ *1/4 page ad*	☐ Format "J5" ☐ Format "D5" ☐ CUSTOM* for custom, you must provide camera-ready art. The ad must fit within an 4 inch wide by 5.25 inch tall box	$85	$95
☐ *1/2 page ad*	☐ Format "N5" ☐ Format "F5" ☐ Format "G5" ☐ Format "K5" ☐ CUSTOM* for custom, you must provide camera-ready art. The ad must fit within an 8.5 inch wide by 5.5 inch tall box	$140	$160
☐ *Full page ad*	☐ Format "H5" ☐ Format "T5" ☐ Format "O5" ☐ CUSTOM* for custom, you must provide camera-ready art. The ad must fit within an 8.5 inch wide by 11 inch tall box	$260	$285



STEP 2 See www.theyearbookcompany.com for photo instructions. Include full contact information.

Name of person purchasing ad (name on check or credit card):

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Daytime contact phone: (___) _____

STUDENT'S first and last name as you would like it to appear on ad:
We will not add this name to custom ads but we do need the name for recordkeeping and indexing purposes.

# of photos enclosed _____

☐ I would like my photos returned so I am enclosing a self-addressed, stamped, appropriately-sized envelope.

PHOTOS WILL BE RETURNED IN THE SUMMER, AFTER ALL YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTIONS HAVE CONCLUDED.

Please note, however, that we cannot guarantee the safety of your photos once we have put them in the USPS mailbox, so please make duplicates of all irreplaceable photos.

STEP 3 **FOR MAILED ADS:** Include payment info, photos, message, and this form in one envelope.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **THE YEARBOOK COMPANY**

☐ Check or m.o. enclosed in the amount of: $
returned checks will be subject to a $25.00 fee
Check # _____

☐ I am paying by credit card: ○ Visa ○ Mastercard

exp date _____

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

CVV code ☐☐☐
3-digit security code on the back of the credit card

ADD CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION FEES
$4 FOR 1/8 PAGE ADS | $6 FOR 1/4 PAGE ADS | $7 FOR HALF PAGE ADS | $10 FOR FULL PAGE ADS

DO NOT SEND ANY MATERIALS TO THE SCHOOL
MAIL EVERYTHING TO:
Kinard Middle School Yearbook Ads
The Yearbook Company
3900 Market Street, Suite 230
Riverside, CA 92501

* Late orders are first-come, first-served based on availability (no guarantees). ADD $25 LATE FEE TO THE REG PRICE. If you wish to order late, go online to check for availability.

If you need help, feel free to call **951-274-9561** to speak to a **live human** who cares!

THE YEARBOOK COMPANY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Jostens

SRO Corner: Firearms Safety

Youth gun safety begins at home with open, age-appropriate conversations. Parents and caregivers should talk with children about what to do if they ever encounter a firearm, whether at home, at a friend's house, or elsewhere. A simple message is often the most effective: Stop. Don't touch. Leave the area. Tell a trusted adult.

It is also important for adults to model safe firearm practices. Firearms should always be treated as if they are loaded, kept pointed in a safe direction, and handled with fingers off the trigger until ready to fire. Anyone handling a firearm should also be aware of their target and what is beyond it.

Safe storage is another critical part of preventing accidental injuries. Firearms that are not in use should be secured in a locked safe or other appropriate storage device and kept inaccessible to children and unauthorized individuals. Ammunition should also be stored securely.

Parents are encouraged to revisit these conversations regularly. Clear expectations, responsible storage, and consistent adult modeling can help children understand that firearms are not toys and give them the tools to respond safely if they ever encounter one.

Visit the Larimer County Juvenile Gun Safety Coalition website for additional resources including age-appropriate educational material such as the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program for elementary-aged children and the Choices video for older students.

Thank you and stay safe,
Kate Garcia
Kinard SRO

Lost and Found

Has your student misplaced a water bottle, lunch box, jacket, or other belongings at school? Have them come check the lost and found shelves in the cafeteria- it is overflowing with student items! We donate any items remaining in our lost and found at the end of each month. Also, please encourage your child to write their first and last name on items they bring to school, especially water bottles and lunch boxes. We return any items that have student names on them directly to the individual.

Health Office News

As the weather gets colder and more germs start to circulate, please refer to the "How Sick Is Too Sick" guidelines that Poudre School District currently follows and visit the PSD Health Services website for more information if your student feels ill in the morning or goes home sick from school.

- "How Sick is Too Sick" Guidelines
- ¿Cuál es el punto en que uno está demasiado enfermo?

If your student is experiencing fever, diarrhea, and/or vomiting, they must be **24-hours symptom free without medication from their last episode** to return to school.

If symptoms are explained by a specific illness please see criteria for exclusion from school in the CDPHE Infectious Disease Guidelines in Childcare and School Settings.

If you have any questions regarding immunizations, medication, or health needs for Kinard during the school year, please contact:

-Christy King, Kinard Health Tech, cking@psdschools.org, at Kinard daily
-Jena Gilbert, PSD School Nurse, jgilbert@psdschools.org, typically at Kinard on Fridays
Kinard health office: 970-488-5441
Kinard health office fax: 970-488-5433

2026 FCHS Girls Basketball Winter Kids Camp

The **Fort Collins High School Girls Basketball Program** is excited to invite young basketball players from across Northern Colorado to our **2026 Winter Kids Camp!**

We are looking forward to welcoming the next generation of basketball players into our gym for a fun morning of skill development, competition, and teamwork! Our camp is a great opportunity for young athletes to develop their basketball skills, build confidence, make new friends, and learn from members of the Fort Collins High School Girls Basketball program.

- **Date:** Monday, December 28, 2026
- **Time:** 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Location:** Fort Collins High School
- **Address:** 3400 Lambkin Way, Fort Collins, CO 80525

Registration & Payment

All campers must complete the registration form and submit payment prior to attending camp.

Step 1: Register for Camp

https://forms.gle/wsaCKZhfGbP3jZTS6

Step 2: Submit Payment Through SchoolPay

https://aws.schoolpay.com/pay/for/FCHS-Athletics-Donations/ScCvXYi

When submitting payment through SchoolPay:

1. Enter the camp payment amount.
2. Select **Girls Basketball** from the program options.
3. Complete and submit your payment.

