

September
2026



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.



Page 1

Kinard Middle School



Mustang News

Welcome back, Mustangs!

We've had a great first few weeks with our new and returning Mustangs! We are proud of our Kinard community and happy that each of you is a part of the incredible things happening at our school. Our dedicated staff, hard-working and enthusiastic students, and supportive parents make Kinard a school of excellence. View the pictures below for a peek into our first days kicking off the 2026-27 school year.



continued on next page

In Honor of Hal Kinard

We Can and We Will

Kinard Middle School

Health District

Support for kids
carrying more
than they should.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

conflict at home

bullying

pressure
to fit in

healthdistrict.org

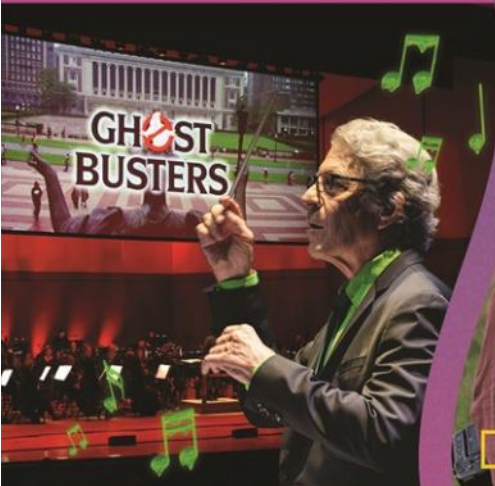
Welcome back, Mustangs!

continued



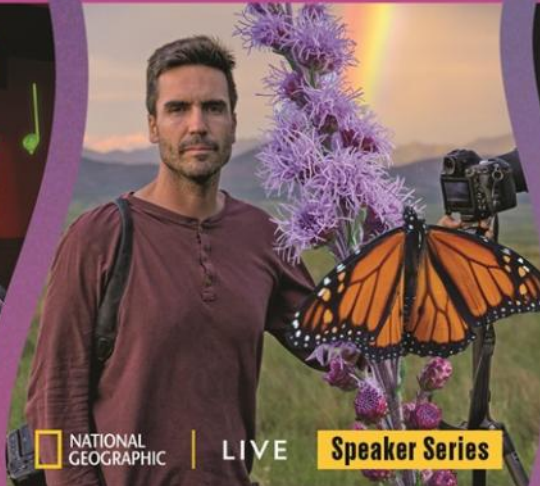
the LINCOLN center

Ghostbusters in Concert
October 4



Starting at \$35

Chasing Monarchs
October 7



Starting at \$29

Bill Blagg: Family Magic
October 10



Starting at \$32

LCtix.com



City of
Fort Collins

Kinard Middle School

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.

Quick Reference Guide and Standards-Based Instruction, Assessment, and Reporting Practices

During the first weeks of school, students reviewed the policies and practices outlined in our Kinard Quick Reference Guide in their classes. This document is available on our website (School Info → Policies). Click [here](#) to read and review the guide which contains very important school-wide information including:

- Student/Teacher Communication Practices and Strategies
- Behavioral Expectations (including cell phone and dress policies)
- Academic Expectations
- Standards-Based Grading Practices
- PSD Work Habits Rubric
- Contact Information
- And much more...

In addition, students have been introduced to many aspects of our Standards-Based Instruction, Assessment, and Reporting practices as summarized [here](#). Both of these documents are also available on our website.



CLICK IT
Click on the
Ads in this
Newsletter
...to learn more about
these great companies!

YOUR FISH GUY

Aquarium services
• Free estimates
• Consultation
• Installation
• Cleaning

Live Plants/Living Ecosystems | 970-430-6402 | michael@freshflowaquatics.com

Kinard Middle School

Parent/Community Partnership and Registering as a Volunteer

We held our initial community partnership meeting on August 28. The community partnership is a group of Kinard parents, family, and community members helping to foster a school community of appreciation and fun. They work closely with the Kinard staff to organize and support various events and activities for both students and staff. In addition to discussing the purpose of the parent partnership, we reviewed volunteer opportunities and events. If you were unable to attend but want more information, please view the presentation [here](#), contact our volunteer coordinator, Virginia Chevalier at kinardvolunteers@gmail.com, or contact our academic dean, Cecilia Bonertz, at cbonertz@psdschools.org.

If you are not already a registered Kinard volunteer and would like to support Kinard in this way, please complete these [steps](#) to ensure you are approved before volunteering. At this time of year, it takes a bit longer for the district to process new applications, so we recommend you complete this process as soon as possible.



Health District



Questions about Health Coverage?
We Can Help!

LarimerHealthConnect.org • 970-472-0444

Se Habla Español



EVERGREEN
PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

SEEING STRENGTHS.
REVEALING SOLUTIONS.

- Psychological evaluations for children ages 2.5- adults
- Clarity for complex questions
- Timely, thorough evaluations
- Evaluations for ADHD, Autism Spectrum, Emotional and Behavioral Conditions, Learning Differences, Twice Exceptional Evaluations

www.evergreenpsychevals.com
720.442.0716

Kinard Middle School

Kinard Welcome Wagons and Wellness Fair

Mark your calendars for an evening of fun, food, and wellness! 🌿 On Thursday, September 10, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, we're hosting our annual Kinard Welcome Wagons and Wellness Fair.

🍔 Food Trucks: Indulge in a variety of delectable dishes from food trucks that will be parked on-site. There will be plenty of options for everyone's taste buds!

🌿 Wellness Fair: Take a break from the delicious treats and explore our wellness fair, where you can learn the eight dimensions of health with a variety of community partners, including UC Health EMS, Twin Silo BMX, The Gardens on Spring Creek, Colorado Youth Outdoors, and more! Adults and students who tour the Wellness Fair and turn in a completed bingo card will have a chance to win various prizes like gift cards, free passes, memberships and apparel donated by our wonderful community partners.

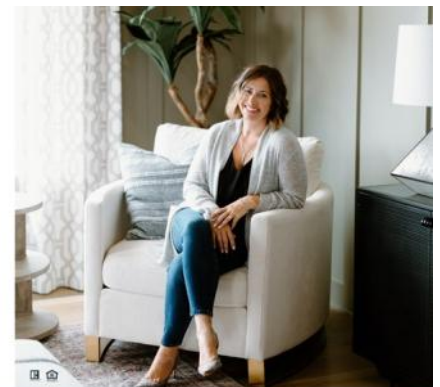
This event is not just about food and fun—it's about coming together as a community to celebrate our school and enjoy a memorable evening together. If you would like to help in a volunteer role, please review and sign-up for volunteer options [here](#).

Please bring your own blankets, lawn chairs, and sun and/or rain covers. We will gather in the Kinard courtyard and athletic fields on the west side of the building. This event is only open to Kinard students and families, and we respectfully request that you leave your furry friends at home (unless they are service animals). If you have any questions, please contact Cecilia Bonertz, Academic Dean, at cbonertz@psdschools.org or 970-488-5407.



continued on next page

S&A
HOMES
**Your Family's
Future Starts Here**
WORK WITH SARAH TYLER
your local realtor



Kinard Middle School

Kinard Welcome Wagons and Wellness Fair

continued



**KINARD COMMUNITY
EXTRAVAGANZA**
FOOD TRUCK RALLY &
WELLNESS FAIR

KINARD MIDDLE SCHOOL
THURS. SEPTEMBER 10TH 5-7PM

FEATURED FOOD TRUCKS:



WELLNESS FAIR

Adults and students can win prizes for touring the Wellness Fair and completing a bingo card!



Prizes include free memberships, passes, swag and gift cards to a variety of places!

Sponsor This School!

YOUR NAME HERE

Click [HERE](#)
Contact Us
Today!

Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107

Rob@tscacolorado.com

The School Communications Agency
Supporting Schools & Local Businesses

 The School
Communications
Agency

Kinard Middle School

6th Annual Mustang Music 5K

DATE: Saturday, October 3rd

LOCATION: Kinard Middle School

SCHEDULE: 9:00am 5K

10:15am Reverse Parade/Fun Run

10:30am Awards

5K DETAILS: The chip-timed 5K can be raced or walked. This year's race route will take participants around a rectangular route. Participants will enjoy the music along the course provided by Kinard band students. Register before 9/13 to get your race packet & t-shirt before the race. Prices increase after 9/14, and online registration closes on 9/20.

REVERSE PARADE/FUN RUN DETAILS: Perfect for children under 10 and non-runners, the Reverse Parade is a Fun Run in which participants will walk or run 2 laps around the Kinard Track. Music department members will surround the track and play music while the kids parade *around them* on the track! So fun :)

Mustang Music ZEROK: Not a runner? Don't like mornings? Can't attend in person? Just want the shirt and to support Kinard music programs? Well you can do this from home or even out-of-state by signing up for the ZEROK! This entry includes a shirt and all proceeds go to our music students, and you don't have to lift a sneaker!

Business Sponsors: If you own a business or know someone who does, encourage them to become a 5K sponsor.

continued on next page

Kinard Middle School

6th Annual Mustang Music 5K

continued



Saturday, October 3rd
9:00am

Kinard Middle School Band

MUSTANG MUSIC 5K
2026

Register online at
www.kinardband.com/5k
or scan the QR code

Come enjoy a morning of music and running!

Schedule
9:00am - 5k race
10:15am - Reverse Parade & Fun Run!

**For more details, check out the website
or scan the QR code**

Location
Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School
3002 E. Trilby Road
Ft. Collins, CO 80528

Perks
Aid station & live music along the race course!!
Mustang 5K tech shirt guaranteed for all!
Chip timed
Fun and unique prizes for overall winners and by age group

SCAN ME

All proceeds benefit the Kinard Middle School Band

Kinard Middle School

Kinard Music Uniforms “Swap Meet”

Do you have a former Kinard Mustang who would like to upcycle and donate their gently worn music uniforms for our current students in the Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Honors Winds, and Philharmonia Orchestras? Please bring any uniform donations to either Mr. Perez or Mrs. Griffey by Friday, September 11. Thank you!

Every School Day Matters, Student Absences, and Early Pick-ups

Because regular attendance helps all students be successful, PSD has joined the state of Colorado in the state-wide campaign, *Every School Day Matters*. Students who attend school regularly perform better academically and are more likely to graduate from high school than students who are chronically absent (defined as missing 10% or more of school days, excused or not). Unfortunately, one in three Colorado students are chronically absent, according to the Colorado Department of Education.

The district’s overarching goal is to reduce our rates of chronic absenteeism by 3.4% each year for the next three years to cut our chronic absenteeism by 50%. PSD also strives to reach 95% average daily attendance. While a goal of 100% attendance doesn’t leave space for occasional student illness, going to school 95% or more of the time helps students stay on track with their schoolwork and feel more connected with staff, peers, and activities at school, which has positive impacts on student mental health and belonging.

If your child is ill and will not be attending school on a given day, please be sure to call in to our 24-hour attendance line at (970)488-5401. Please leave us your name, your child’s name, and his/her student ID number. Even if you contact your child’s individual teachers to notify them of the absence or to request make-up work, you still need to call the attendance line to confirm the absence with our office staff. You can also report an absence for your child via [ParentVUE](#).

Additionally, if you plan to pick your child up for an appointment or early dismissal, please call our main office at (970) 488-5400 as early in the day as possible. It can be more difficult to get your child to you quickly if you wait to call until you are in the parking lot or immediately needing your student for dismissal.

Kinard Middle School

Counselors' Corner

Greetings to all of our new families and those returning! There are two counselors to support students and families at Kinard, and we divide our caseload by last name:

- Mrs. Patti Young - students with the last names starting with A-G; pyoung@psdschools.org; 970-488-5406
- Ms. Karen Irvine - students with last names starting with H-Z; kirvine@psdschools.org; 970-488-5408

Our offices are located in Kinard's Student Services office. You can easily connect with us and the Student Services department online via Kinard's homepage (under "School Info" and "Directory"), or by clicking on these links:

[School Counseling Learning Page](#)

[Kinard Student Services](#)

With the assistance of our amazing 8th grade WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leaders, we welcomed nearly 300 6th graders on August 18th. We visited 6th grade ELO's in late August, to share how students can connect with us, as well as our role as school counselors and how we support students. Later this quarter, we will teach our SEL (Social & Emotional Learning) curriculum in 6th grade classrooms to support students' development of healthy relationship skills, and additionally how to handle conflict or bullying situations.

Visits to 7th and 8th grade classrooms will happen in September and October.

Please reach out with any needs or questions you have.

Kinard Middle School

7th Grade Field Trip to Colorado Youth Outdoors

The PE department is excited to continue the annual Colorado Youth Outdoors (CYO) field trip for our 7th graders. This is an exciting field trip opportunity and partnership with the Colorado Youth Outdoors Program. 7th graders will go on the field trip for the whole day on September 17th (½ of 7th grade PE students) or September 18th

(the second ½ of 7th grade PE students). Colorado Youth Outdoors exists to build relationships through traditional outdoor recreation. All students will have the opportunity to rotate through four stations taught by trained professionals. At each station, students will learn about safety and will need to follow the instructor's guidelines in order to participate in the following activities:



Archery- on a professional range

Fishing- at various ponds on the property

BB Guns- on safe gun range using one pump BB guns

Survival Skills- learning outdoor survival skills

This field trip is to not only give our students an incredible opportunity to experience outdoor recreation, but also to introduce our upcoming archery and fishing units in the spring semester. This will meet many Physical Education and Health Standards in the area of Prevention and Risk Management and Emotional and Social Wellness.

More information will be coming soon from your student's PE teacher. If you would like to be a parent volunteer for this trip, please make sure you are a PSD registered volunteer by following this link

<https://www.psdschools.org/community/volunteer-with-psd>, then email Mrs. Jordan (bjordan@psdschools.org) or Mr. Benson (jbenson@psdschools.org).

Kinard Middle School

7th Grade Spark Interviews

Throughout their time at Kinard, our school counselors work with students on creating their Individualized Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs). As part of the ICAP process, students at Kinard take inventories to learn about their personal learning styles and career interests using a web-based PSD program called Xello. Through Xello, students can compile and track academic and career plans throughout their middle and high school years.

In addition to the work that students will be doing in Xello, Kinard staff members will be conducting Spark Interviews with each 7th grader on Thursday, September 17 and Friday, September 18. Over the course of those two days, all 7th graders will also be attending a P.E. field trip to Colorado Youth Outdoors (see previous story). We found this to be a unique scheduling opportunity that would allow us to interview each student on the day they will not be attending the field trip.

The Spark Interview will ask students about their hobbies, academic interests, and vision for their futures. This will enhance the work students do through Xello by allowing each student to have a personal conversation with a staff member about his or her passions, interests, and potential future goals and plans. Our hope is to connect with each student individually and learn more about their personal “sparks” or areas of passion and how our school can support the vision that students are creating for themselves. The Spark Interview student responses will be utilized in future activities in 8th grade and for individual reflection.

If you have additional questions about the ICAP process, please contact our school counselors:

Patti Young (last names A-G)- pyoung@psdschools.org or (970)488-5406

Karen Irvine (last names H-Z)- kirvine@psdschools.org or (970)488-5408

Kinard Middle School

8th Grade Career Exploration Day

In partnership with Colorado State University, Poudre School District's Career & Innovation Team is once again hosting the college and career expo for all 8th grade PSD students. The goal of this event is to support 8th grade students in learning about options and careers in high school and beyond.

Date: Kinard 8th graders will be attending Tuesday, October 6th. Permission forms will be distributed on September 25th and are due October 1st.

While at the event on October 6, students will visit CSU to engage with business professionals, CSU faculty, and students about career pathways. Students will be surveyed for their choices of clusters. The options are:

1. Natural Resources AND Agriculture & Veterinary Science
2. Construction Management AND Automotive
3. Business/Finance/Investing AND Marketing & Communications
4. Computer Science AND Engineering/Manufacturing
5. Education AND Health Science
6. Aviation AND Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Military

Contact Patti Young (last names A-G) at (970)488-5406/
pyoung@psdschools.org or Karen Irvine (970)488-5408/
kirvine@psdschools.org with questions.

School Accountability Committee

We are reaching out to all parents/guardians to extend an invitation to serve on our 2026-2027 School Accountability Committee (SAC). **Our first SAC meeting for the year will be held on Monday, September 14 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Kinard Media Center.** The Kinard School Accountability Committee meets four times per year, approximately quarterly.

Kinard Middle School

School Accountability Committee

continued

The SAC is a wonderful opportunity to enhance our partnership with parents/guardians through an organized group composed of both parents/guardians and teachers at Kinard. The SAC has a very specific focus, established by the Colorado Department of Education and Poudre School District. Primary topics for analysis and discussion will include budget allocation and Kinard's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). Other topics that may be discussed in this committee include but are not limited to: parent involvement, student transitions, curriculum, instruction, assessment, systems for support, communication, technology, leadership, decision-making, positive behavior support, and school-wide capacity building.

Standardized Assessment Results

CMAS/CoAlt results and score reports from assessments taken in April 2026 became available on May 29 through the [Pearson Family Portal](#). Sign in to view your student's detailed results, including score breakdowns, areas of strength and growth, peer comparisons, and tips for supporting learning at home! To sign in, you will need your student's SASID (State Student Identifier) which can be found on the 4th line under "Student Information" in Parent/StudentVUE. More information about these assessments and the [Pearson Family Portal](#) can be found here ([English](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#)).

Students are currently taking NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. After the end of the testing window, we will send reports of their results home with students. We also want to remind you that standardized assessment results are available through ParentVUE. After logging into ParentVUE, please use the following options from the menu of icons:

CMAS: PSD Documents (bottom row of icons) → All assessment documents → CMAS

- These reports provide information about your student's mastery of skills and concepts in the stated subject area.

Kinard Middle School

Standardized Assessment Results

continued

MAP: Student Information

- Scroll all the way to the bottom to view graphs of your student's percentile rank on CMAS and MAP assessments (results available through winter 2025 for both assessments). For more information on MAP, please see the family guide [here](#).

If you have questions about interpreting your child's assessment results, please contact his/her teachers. You may also contact Cecilia Bonertz, Academic Dean, at 970-488-5407 or cbonertz@psdschools.org.

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!

Student Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a variety of clubs and extracurricular opportunities that promote student involvement and cater to many different student interest areas. Below is a list of the current clubs we offer at Kinard. If your child is interested in participating in some of these wonderful activities, please see [our website](#) for specific meeting times, dates, and locations. *Please note: Specific dates and times are subject to change and some club sponsors are still solidifying start dates. Additional communication about Kinard clubs and activities will be sent through subsequent newsletters, emails, and updates on our [activity calendar](#). Be on the lookout for all our amazing student opportunities!

continued on next page

Kinard Middle School

Student Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities

continued

School-Sponsored Clubs:

- **Lego Robotics:** Starting now and has been communicated to students as part of the Enrichment class selection process- contact Mr. Berthold (aberthold@psdschools.org) for details.
- **National Junior Honor Society (NJHS):** NJHS starts in mid-September for returning members; new members can apply in January. We will meet on Mondays at 7:30 a.m. in the Kinard Media Center. Meeting dates : 9/21, 10/5, 10/26, 11/9, 12/7, 1/11, 2/1, 3/8, 3/29, 4/12, 4/26. We may add more dates as needed to complete projects and community events. Please reach out to Nicole Darrow with questions: ndarrow@psdschools.org
- **Science Olympiad:** Calling all Mustang scientists! Science Olympiad will be hosting a parent/guardian informational meeting on **Thursday, September 17th** from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Kinard Media Center. This is a unique club for all interested 6th, 7th, and 8th graders that includes 23 different events spanning several disciplines of science and engineering, culminating in a regional tournament in early March and the state competition in late March. If you are unable to attend and your student is interested in being a part of Science Olympiad, they can pick up a registration form from Ms. Blumberg (room 313) after September 17th. Registration for this season closes on October 2nd. If you have any questions please reach out to Ms. Blumberg at kablumberg@psdschools.org.
- **Yearbook:** Starting now- students apply to Mrs. Lonac to be in her Advisory/Enrichment class.

Student Initiated and Led Clubs:

If a student has an interest that lies outside of the listed school-sponsored clubs, they are welcome to explore starting their own club. Student initiated and led clubs are open to all students and can happen before or after school. Students interested in starting a student initiated and led organization must first meet with Mrs. LaRue to start the application process and to understand PSD policy around student initiated and led organizations. Students should come to that meeting with a general idea or proposal for their club - a description of the club, purpose of the club, when and where they would like the club to meet, as well as how frequently and for how long each meeting will run. Students will also need to find a staff sponsor who agrees to monitor and supervise the club.

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner

Hi from your friendly SRO Kate Garcia!
Most kids call me Officer Kate. I am the SRO at Kinard, Bacon, Werner, and Zach Elementary Schools. Within Fort Collins Police Services, I am also a Crisis/ Hostage Negotiator, on the Peer Support Team and on the Bike Team. Before I was a Police Officer, I was an EMT and got my BS in Kinesiology from the University of Rhode Island. In my free time, I love spending time with my family, playing hockey, fly fishing, and coaching softball at Kinard! Go Mustangs!!



With the coming of a new school year, your Fort Collins Police School Resource Officers wanted to take a moment to introduce our program. Our SRO program began in Fort Collins in 1995 as a result of a partnership between Fort Collins Police Services and the Poudre School District.

We have three basic goals:

- Provide a safe learning environment and help reduce school violence.
- Improve school/law enforcement collaboration.
- Improve the perceptions and relations between students, staff, and law enforcement officials.

Currently the FCPS SRO team is composed of 11 officers, 2 corporals, and 1 sergeant who oversees the SRO Program. These 11 officers have responsibilities for all 38 PSD schools within the City of Fort Collins limits. With our partners from Larimer County Sheriff's office and the Timnath Police department, there is an SRO representative for all 51 PSD schools.

We often are asked what we do as SROs, this can be summarized through the concept from the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) concept of "The Triad".

Kinard Middle School

SRO Corner

continued

The three components of The Triad are Law Enforcement, Mentorship/Counseling, and Guest Speaking/Teaching.

These three branches make up a well-rounded School Resource Officer. During the school year, SROs can be found at their sites mentoring students, offering advice about peer conflicts, or bullying. We may be found assisting in presentations in classrooms on a wide variety of topics. We also assist in traffic safety surrounding our schools through presence, traffic stops, and education.

We may be found in elementary schools reading to students or evaluating a science fair project. We may be playing hockey in PE classes or teaching bicycle safety and handing out stickers.

We also may be called upon to enforce the law in rare cases where students offend and harm others. These incidents can sometimes lead to direct referrals to community programs to repair harm, a Juvenile Summons to the Juvenile Court, or in extreme and rare cases, arrests. We also continuously collaborate with school administrators on a wide range of topics from drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse and neglect reporting, threats of violence to individuals or to the school itself.

Our SROs are carefully selected, specifically trained, and properly equipped law enforcement officers who are assigned to work in a school or school community in accordance with the NASRO standard.

Our SROs are always available for questions, and all have varied interests and expertise. We are available to support our schools and school communities as needs arise.

If you have questions about your SRO, please reach out!

-Officer Kate Garcia

Kinard Middle School, Zach Elementary, Werner Elementary, Bacon Elementary

kgarcia@psdschools.org

Kinard Middle School

Kinard Health Office News

Welcome Back, Mustangs! We're so excited to welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year!

Just a few reminders from the Health Office:

MEDICATION AND HEALTH CARE ACTION PLANS

If your student requires any medications during the school day—**emergency, daily, or over-the-counter**—we must have the appropriate paperwork **signed by a medical provider** on file.

If your student has a **medical condition** that we should be aware of to help keep them safe at school, please don't hesitate to reach out to **Christy King, Health Tech**, or **Jena Gilbert, RN**, our school nurse. We're happy to assist you in finding the correct forms and ensuring everything is in place.

👉 Use the link below to access the necessary forms for your student's medical needs. Please note that **multiple forms** may be required depending on the situation.

<https://www.psdschools.org/programs-services/health-services-students/medications-health-care-action-plans>

IMMUNIZATIONS

We have already received many immunization records for students this year- thank you for your timely turning in of these required documents! If you still have to turn in paperwork to the health office, please get those records in as soon as possible.

Students entering K-12 Grades must have the following vaccinations and provide documentation of the administration:

- Hepatitis B (minimum of 3)
- DTaP
- IPV
- MMR
- Varicella
- TDaP (minimum of 1)

Kinard Middle School

Kinard Health Office News

continued

If there are any reasons your student is NOT receiving one of the above vaccinations, please follow the link to the [Poudre School District Immunizations](#) site, which provides the **non-medical exemption** and the **medical exemption** forms that must be submitted to the school.

If you're unsure about medications and/or immunizations, contact the Health Office—we're here to help

Have a wonderful day!

Thank you,

-Christy King, Kinard Health Tech, cking@psdschools.org, 970-488-5441

-Jena Gilbert, Kinard/PSD School Nurse, jgilbert@psdschools.org, 970-698-0120

-Health Office Fax Number: 970-488-5433