

# KELLY LANE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S KNIGHTLY NEWS

Kelly Lane Middle School, Pflugerville ISD

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## In the Midst of the Year

We have started to reach that point where it no longer feels as if school is starting and our students are starting to settle into the routine of the school year. We don't anticipate many more schedule changes, our expectations have been established with our students, the school climate feels and look positive, and the class work is beginning to increase in complexity. While it is advantageous for us to see our systems in place and working, something that our students should expect is the amount and complexity of the work slightly increasing.

One challenge our teachers are addressing is the amount of kids absent due to illness. While the recovery time has been quick, the number of students absent is higher than usual. In response to the needs of students, 7<sup>th</sup> grade is offering after school make-up and tutorial sessions on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> for Texas History and Language Arts. Additionally, we will offer Math make-up and tutorial sessions on Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are the **parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader** and would like to take advantage of these sessions, please make a "reservation" with your child's teacher. Due to the relatively small number of 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders absent, we ask that parents make arrangements with individual teachers at this time for the extra help. You may also contact the school in the morning for us to make arrangements for your child's work.

In addition to this resource, we will begin our usual **after school homework help** in the library this year on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays**. Our only expectations are

## Upcoming News and Announcements for Kelly Lane Families

**Volleyball:** Bye Week

**Football:** Facing Park Crest @ 5:30 (8<sup>th</sup> Home, 7<sup>th</sup> Away)

**Cross Country:** Running at 5:30 in Metropolitan Park.

**Catapult Bell Schedule:** Begins September 29th. We'll use a "normal" schedule until then. See page two for details.

Devin Padavil, Campus Principal  
Sarah Coleman, Administrative Associate

Curtis Seiferman, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal  
Rose Marques, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal  
Ben O'Connor, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal

Sherri Vigil, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade A-L  
Cristina Garza, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade M-Z

that students come prepared to work and have arrangements for transportation promptly at 5:00. After that time, we are unable to provide supervision for our students.

Our volleyball teams were victorious this past week vs. Dessau. The cross country team had an excellent first meet, with the boys taking 1<sup>st</sup> place and our girls taking 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our football teams also had a strong showing against Westview in a scrimmage and we look forward to our first game against Park Crest tomorrow night.

Lastly, our students will have the opportunity to sign up for access to the online gradebook through lunches and selected classes for the next few weeks. This will provide students with the opportunity to self-monitor progress and track their grades. Please know students will not be able to modify settings you have created to receive notifications / alerts.

Best regards,

Devin Padavil

**College Day:** October 6<sup>th</sup> for all of PISD. Staff / students encouraged to wear college gear. Another "college day" for KLMS will be in the spring.

**Dance Fever:** First KLMS Dance is September 25<sup>th</sup>.  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade 6:00-8:00, 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30, 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00.

**National Walk to School Day:** October 7th

## Catapult: Beginning September 29<sup>th</sup>

We are constantly seeking to answer two fundamental questions: “How can we be more effective?” and “What can we do to help students be more successful?” One thing that kept coming up was that advisory time was missed because students could do homework and teachers could tutor small groups of students during that time.

Because we knew traditional “advisory” would not be the answer, I took a team of eight staff members to Georgetown to study a program they had borrowed from the Dallas area. After discussion, we knew we didn’t want exactly what they did, but we liked certain elements of it. Through discussion and collaboration with students and teachers, we came up with a solution, entitled “Catapult” (name given by Ms. Courington’s 7<sup>th</sup> graders from last year).

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, we will have “Catapult” for the last 23 minutes of the day. This time will allow for small groups of students to be given help on their homework or to receive tutoring.

Students that are successful in both academics and conduct will get to work in a relaxed atmosphere in the cafeteria. At the same time, student clubs and enrichment activities will be taking place.

While the primary objective is to provide tutoring and academic assistance to needy students, we also are excited about the ability to provide great opportunities for our students to connect with school. We offer 17 different clubs, everything from Robotics to Creative Writing, for our students. Additionally, we reward students that are following academic and behavior expectations with incentives as well.

The input of the students and teachers has developed this innovative concept. Based on student input from last year, the individualized time with teachers was very beneficial for learning. For more information, please preview the powerpoint on our website or contact me: (devin.padavil@pflugervilleisd.net).



*Kelly Lane's teachers are committed to serving our students best! Stay connected and let us know if we can do anything to provide excellence in learning for our students or your child.*

*Principal: [devin.padavil@pflugervilleisd.net](mailto:devin.padavil@pflugervilleisd.net)*