

Kennard Classical Junior Academy (CJA) is a Gifted and Talented Magnet School located in the southern section of St. Louis, MO. Kennard received its gifted designation in 1990 as part of the magnet schools system tied to the city's desegregation plan. Kennard is the only gifted elementary school in the state of Missouri. Our student body consists of both urban and suburban students and includes a full range of socio-economic backgrounds and cultures. Students entering Kennard are placed based on the state criteria for gifted as well as the magnet lottery system.

Kennard CJA's goal is first to improve student achievement by providing challenges that promote intellectual, social, emotional, and creative excellence. We nurture and promote an appreciation of diversity and individuality. We work diligently to instill self-confidence and a sense of empowerment in our students. We recognize that when students know they have a voice and are taught how to use that voice responsibly and productively they learn to become productive, accountable members of society.

The teaching staff of Kennard is very well qualified to address the needs of our students. We are proud to say we currently have 95% of our teaching staff with gifted certification and 98% with advanced degrees. Kennard also has five National Board Certified teachers on staff. Kennard has a 23 to 1 student/teacher ratio with support and resource staff for the students with a variety of special needs that accompany giftedness.

The interior of the school has been painted with murals of the ocean and the rainforest which serve as environmental teaching tools. The entrance hall houses the Kennard "claim to fame" trophy case containing many plaques, certificates, articles and trophies. Our hallways are filled with student projects and samples of student work. The Kennard "Tiger Pride" is reflected though out the school.

The Kennard philosophy is "Children First" and our motto is "Together We Can." We believe these two phrases express first what we consider to be most important and second the importance of a united effort among the students, the school and the home.

Kennard boasts an attendance rate of 96% which we believe is in large part due to our outstanding parent involvement and caring staff. Wednesday afternoons students choose an enrichment club that most interests them. Some of the choices include: Engineering, Manners, Leadership, Quilting, Writing, Newspaper, etc. Some of the after school extracurricular activities at Kennard include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, art and instrumental music lessons, and chess club. Students also perform in at least one school production which may include the Winter Program, The Black History Program or the 5th grade Opera.

At Kennard truly, "Children are the focus of all our efforts."

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