



WILDCATS

HELEN KELLER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

KELLER ASD PROGRAM INFORMATION GUIDE

Schaumburg School District 54
Ensuring Student Success

A Message From Mr. Barbini

Principal, Keller Junior High School

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

As a school community, we all welcome you and your family to Keller Junior High School! The Keller Information Guide will be a helpful tool in your child's preparation and transition into Keller.

Here, our belief is that we exist to provide an educational experience that will secure a foundation of a brighter future for all of our students. To establish this expectation, our work is continuously fueled by our commitment to each other, the students, and Keller community to pursue excellence. One of our top priorities is to continuously look for ways to learn, improve, and grow as a team.

TOGETHER AS ONE — this is the theme that drives all of us to work hard in all that we do. We are one team, one family whose vision ensures the success of all students at Keller. Our mentality and approach is to take ownership for and believe in the fact that every child can learn, at the highest levels, without exception. Simply stated, when we are TOGETHER AS ONE with our approach, it allows us to be WITHOUT EQUAL. This means that we aim to prevail, no matter what the odds are or how difficult the situation might be. We constantly strive to have an authentic will to win, and as a team, school, and community, we are unmatched.

The Keller families and community are an integral part of our work. Your support sets us all up for success each and every day. Furthermore, your role on the team validates that we truly are better together, and as a positive team we will commit to excellence and do amazing things. The success and happiness at Keller have been directly related to how well we connect with, relate to, and learn from one another. More importantly, our work has the biggest impact because we continue to partner with families. I look forward to connecting and working with all of you in the coming years to help make your experience here at Keller Junior High School the absolute best!

Sincerely,

Thomas Barbini
Principal

ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Barbini
Principal

Nicholas Coopridier
Assistant Principal

Lindsey DiGrino
Dean of Students

Dr. Jennifer Naddeo
Executive Director
of Special
Education

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54 PROMISE

- Ensure the success of the whole child
- Perform in the top 10% of all schools
- Close the achievement gap for all students



2026-2027 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

AUGUST	12- Full-day Institute Day - no school 13- Full-day Institute Day - no school 14- Full-day Institute Day - no school 17- First day of classes for students in grades 1-7 and Lincoln Prairie grade 8 18- First day of classes for students in grade 8 24- First day of classes kindergarten and early childhood students
SEPTEMBER	7- Labor Day Holiday - no school 16- Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon & no ELC all day
OCTOBER	12- Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day - no school
NOVEMBER	3- Election - no school 6- Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon & no ELC all day 18- Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon & no ELC all day 20- Thanksgiving break begins at the end of the day 30- School resumes
DECEMBER	18- Winter break begins at the end of the day
JANUARY	4- Full-day Institute Day - no school 5- School resumes 18- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday - no school
FEBRUARY	12- Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon & no ELC all day 15- Presidents Day Holiday - no school
MARCH	19- Spring Break begins at the end of the day 29- School resumes
APRIL	6- Primary Election - no school
MAY	19- Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon & no ELC all day 26- Last day of school (if no emergency days are used)
EMERGENCY DAYS	If District 54 has to cancel school, the first two days would be traditional snow days (May 27-28, 2027). However, if District 54 has to be cancel school on additional days, we will implement our e-learning plan starting on the third day and families will receive a communication with a link to access the day's e-learning lessons.
EARLY DISMISSAL	Beginning August 19, 2026, every Wednesday is designated for staff development. Students are dismissed 30 minutes early and staff stay late.

Student Services

The Student Service Department at Keller is comprised of the principal, assistant principal, dean of students, behavior coach, guidance counselors, social workers, and school psychologist. As a team, we focus on supporting each student in multiple ways.

Ensuring the success of the whole child is our promise, all while supporting the unique academic and social emotional needs of each student here at Keller.

Food Pantry

Our food pantry serves all of District 54 families who require assistance, not just those receiving free and reduced lunch. Families may place an order online and pick up at the Keller's school pantry site once a month. Please allow two to three business days to process your order.



**Keller
Food
Pantry**



**Guidance
Department
Information**

REGISTRATION

New Students

New families who do not have a portal account can begin registration through our Online Registration link (linked at the bottom of the page). Once your application is complete, please contact the school to schedule an appointment to present the documentation listed below and sign documents to complete your student's registration.

New registrants will need to provide the following documents:

- Up-to-date physical examination and immunization requirements. All completed forms must be submitted to the school nurse's office
- Proof of residence
- Birth Certificate, Visa or Passport (original with seal). Official birth certificates are issued by the county clerk in the county in which the child was born. Hospital certificates are not accepted.
- **For questions, please contact (847) 357-5103.**



More information about Health Services is available at:
<https://sd54.org/healthservices/>

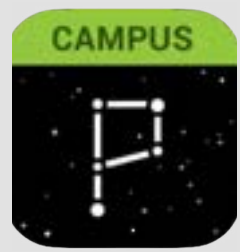
Returning Students

If you have a student currently enrolled in District 54, you can register through your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account. If you do not have your username or password, please contact portalsupport@sd54.org.



More information about registration is available at:
<https://sd54.org/resources/registration>

Parent Portal



District 54 utilizes Infinite Campus as our student information system. Through Infinite Campus, parents will have access to the Parent Portal which provides information regarding their child including paying fees, viewing assignments, attendance, grades, academic schedule, and teacher comments.

If you currently do not have a Parent Portal account, you can:

- email portalsupport@sd54.org
- call our front office at (847) 357-6500 and our secretaries can assist you

If you need help logging on to the Infinite Campus portal you, can:

- email portalsupport@sd54.org,
- call portal support at (847) 357-5110

If you have previously created a Parent Portal account and cannot recall your username or password, you can reset them yourself from the portal website by selecting forgot password.

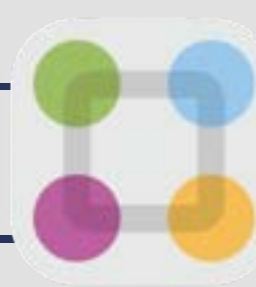


Access to the Infinite Campus parent portal is available at:

<https://campus.sd54.org/campus/portal/schaumburg.jsp>



ParentSquare



District 54 and school principals use a platform called ParentSquare to communicate with our families in a variety of ways, such as to email weekly newsletters and to send alerts through phone calls and text messages for priority communications. The district will use ParentSquare to call, text and email parents/guardians and staff for weather-related closings and emergency situations and to communicate informational updates.

All families and staff will receive calls, texts and emails whether or not you create a ParentSquare account. However, by creating an account you will be able to see all of the messages previously sent to you from the district or your child's school, calendars, directories and other information. You will be able to change your preferences, interact with requests and more as we introduce additional tools.

To activate your ParentSquare account, go to parentsquare.com/signin:

- enter the email or cell phone number you provided to the school
- ParentSquare also has a free app available on the **Apple Store** for iPhones or the **Google Play** Store for Androids
- if you click on your name at the top, and then My Account, you can see the contact information we have on file for you
- contact our school to update any information that may need to be changed
- ParentSquare offers translation for numerous languages; if you are interested in changing your language preference, select the language you prefer and select save



For more information on ParentSquare, visit:
<https://sd54.org/contact-us/>

Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



District 54 provides free lunch and milk for those students unable to pay under the Illinois Free Lunch and Special Milk Programs. Children from households that meet federal guidelines are eligible for free lunch and milk. To receive free lunches and milk for your child, you must complete an application and return it to school. Incomplete applications cannot be processed or approved. Only one application per household is needed. Applications for free lunch must be renewed each year.

SNAP/TANF households that currently receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for their children, but did not receive a letter from the school stating that their children are automatically approved, only have to list each child's name and food stamp or TANF case number and sign the application. Link card numbers cannot be used.

To get a copy of the Free Reduced Lunch application:
<https://sd54.org/assistance-and-support/freelunch/>



ASD Program

This year, the program consists of six Special Services Teachers (SSTs) in six classrooms. Some students spend parts of their day in the General Education classrooms for academic classes, PE, and Electives. They are assisted with all transitions throughout Keller by visual schedules and support staff, as needed.



Electives

Students participate in three electives throughout the year. Electives rotate on the Wheel system, once per trimester. Those electives are:

Art

Media

Music



Students also have the opportunity to participate in other Electives that Keller offers. Administration does their best to accommodate requests, but they are not a guarantee. Those Electives are:

Band

Spanish

Chorus

Orchestra

STEM



Gym classes

Students participate in gym class each day. They are placed into one of three classes:

General Education PE

Students attend the General Education class with a support staff.



Unified PE

Students from the ASD Program and students from the General Education program work together during class. Support staff is also provided to assist, as needed.

Adapted PE

Students with more significant needs are accompanied by support staff to assist them in participating in the different activities.



Keller Junior High School SPORTS



Sport Seasons

August – October

Cross Country
Girls Basketball

October – December

Boys Basketball
Cheerleading
POMS

January – March

Wrestling
Girls Volleyball

March – May

Boys and Girls Track
Boys Volleyball

Students from program are welcome to join or try out for any sports at Keller. If selected for the team, staff from program will accompany students to practices and games to support them. There are also opportunities for students to participate in some sports at a modified level.

Students must maintain academic eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports. Students participating in interscholastic athletic programs, including intramural sports, shall have an annual physical examination prior to tryouts and participation in any scheduled practice or contest. Physicals are effective for one year from the date of the exam. The physical exam form for District 54 can be found at <https://sd54.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Sports-Physical-Form.pdf>



Keller Junior High School UNIFIED SPORTS



Sport Seasons

August – October
Unified Soccer

December – March
Unified Basketball

Unified Sports is an inclusive program which combines individuals with intellectual disabilities (athletes) and individuals without intellectual disabilities (partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Athletes and partners compete alongside one another, each in a meaningful and integral role on the Unified Sports team.

Portal Access:

<https://portals.specialolympics.org>

Directions for Athletes

*(An athlete is a
student with an IEP)*

More information about
Unified Sports and
Special Olympics can be
found here, or by visiting
<https://www.soill.org/>



After School Opportunities



After school opportunities include a multitude of clubs, sporting events, dances, and socials. Clubs may vary from year to year, depending on level of interest. Information about these events will be shared by the case manager or can also be found on the Keller school website.

In addition to the regular Keller activities, the ASD Program also hosts a variety of fun activities, such as Fall Fest and Game Night. Throughout the year, there are also some volunteer opportunities at Keller's Food Pantry. Your case manager will provide you with information regarding these days.

Keller Junior High offers an activity bus that runs at 4pm, following after school activities.

Keller School Website



Club Unify



Club Unify is an afterschool club for General Education and Special Education students to come together, form friendships, hang out, and have a good time through whole school activities, sports projects, and games. The Goals of Club Unify are to form friendships, support Special Olympics athletes, raise awareness for Special Olympics, and help young people become advocates/youth.



Frequently Asked Questions



School Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 7:40am - 2:15pm

Wednesday: 7:40am - 1:45pm

Half Days: 7:40am - 10:45am

Schedules:

Schedules are created to best fit each student with their appropriate core classes. Electives are assigned as available according to student request. Electives are not guaranteed.

Bus Transportation:

Busing is provided for students who qualify. There is a morning bus, after school bus, and late bus that leaves Keller at 4:00 PM every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. In addition, District 54 offers parent-paid transportation for students living less than 1.5 miles and more than 0.5 miles from their school of attendance. For more information, please call transportation at (847) 357-5104.

Passing Periods:

Staff assist students with transitions throughout the school both during and between classes.

After School Activities:

There are many opportunities for students to stay after school throughout the year. Staff from program stay to support students at the various events. There is also an activity bus that can take students home at 4pm, if needed. Case managers will provide more information regarding clubs and after school activities.

Cafeteria:

Some students eat in the cafeteria while others eat back in the ASD program. Pizza is sold on Mondays and Fridays. In addition, the PTA "Special Lunch" is offered once per week and must be preordered. All ASD classrooms have microwaves for students to heat up their lunch, if needed.

Gym Expenses:

Students have the option to purchase a gym uniform during the school year. Pricing for the gym uniform will be made available at the start of the school year.

Chromebooks:

Students may have access to Chromebooks and Ipads to use for academic assignments and activities. Your case manager will inform you of what devices and technology your child will be accessing as it varies from classroom to classroom.

High School Transition Meeting:

8th grade students will be visited and observed by high school teams. Meeting will be held around January to determine best placement for your student. Case managers will provide more information regarding transitioning to high school.

KELLER WILDCATS

TOGETHER AS ONE



Keller Website

<https://keller.sd54.org/>



Keller Instagram Page

@D54Keller

<https://www.instagram.com/d54keller/>



District 54 Website

<https://sd54.org/>



Keller Facebook Page

@D54Keller

<https://www.facebook.com/D54Keller/>

