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# WILDCATS

## HELEN KELLER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### KELLER INFORMATION GUIDE

# A Message From Mr. Barbini

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## Principal, Keller Junior High School

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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

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### ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Barbini  
Principal

Nicholas Coopridier  
Assistant Principal

Lindsey DiGrino  
Dean of Students

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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	<p>12 - Full-day Institute Day - no school</p> <p>13 - Full-day Institute Day - no school</p> <p>14 - Full-day Institute Day - no school</p> <p>17 - First day of classes for students in grades 1-7 and Lincoln Prairie grade 8</p> <p>18 - First day of classes for students in grade 8</p> <p>24 - First day of classes kindergarten and early childhood students</p>
SEPTEMBER	<p>7 - Labor Day Holiday - no school</p> <p>16 - Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon &amp; no ELC all day</p>
OCTOBER	<p>12 - Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day - no school</p>
NOVEMBER	<p>3 - Election - no school</p> <p>6 - Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon &amp; no ELC all day</p> <p>18 - Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon &amp; no ELC all day</p> <p>20 - Thanksgiving break begins at the end of the day</p> <p>30 - School resumes</p>
DECEMBER	<p>18 - Winter break begins at the end of the day</p>
JANUARY	<p>4 - Full-day Institute Day - no school</p> <p>5 - School resumes</p> <p>18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday - no school</p>
FEBRUARY	<p>12 - Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon &amp; no ELC all day</p> <p>15 - Presidents Day Holiday - no school</p>
MARCH	<p>19 - Spring Break begins at the end of the day</p> <p>29 - School resumes</p>
APRIL	<p>6 - Primary Election - no school</p>
MAY	<p>19 - Half-day Inservice Day - no school in the afternoon &amp; no ELC all day</p> <p>26 - Last day of school (if no emergency days are used)</p>
EMERGENCY DAYS	<p>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.</p>
EARLY DISMISSAL	<p>Beginning August 19, 2026, every Wednesday is designated for staff development. Students are dismissed 30 minutes early and staff stay late.</p>



# 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 documentations 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.
- Proof of residency
- 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.**
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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 your 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](https://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)

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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/>



# Electives

Students enroll in two electives each year at Keller. Our administration tries their best to accommodate the requests, but they are not guaranteed. Electives currently being offered are:

Art  
Media  
Music  
STEM

Band  
Chorus  
Orchestra

Spanish  
Dual-Spanish  
Honors Spanish



## Acceleration Courses

The purpose of an Acceleration Course is to provide additional support to students in math and/or reading in an effort to advance their learning to grade level and beyond. Students will be enrolled in Math or Reading Acceleration in place of one or both electives. Criteria is based on classroom performance, multiple MAP scores, and other data points.



# 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 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/healthservices/>





# Frequently Asked Questions



## **Lockers**

Seventh grade students share a locker with an assigned partner of the same gender. Eighth grade students get their own locker. Students are able to go to their locker throughout the day. Students are not able to carry around their backpacks throughout the school day.

## **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**

Passing periods are each three minutes long. Students are expected to arrive at their next class before the bell rings.

## **Cafeteria**

Students eat lunch in the cafeteria daily. Pizza is sold on Mondays and Fridays. In addition, the PTA "Special Lunch" is offered once per week and must be preordered.

## **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 must bring their fully charged Chromebook and charger to school daily. Students are responsible for proper care of their Chromebook, as it is district-issued. All use of Chromebooks and student Google accounts are monitored by District 54.

# 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/>

