

Military Dependents' Education in the Fort Knox Community Schools

FKCS - Established in 1932, our school system provides a comprehensive program for school-age children of the military men and women stationed at Fort Knox.

Kentucky District - Fort Knox schools are a part of the Kentucky District, one of five districts in the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools. DDESS is a division of the Department of Defense Education Activity, serving children of military families around the globe.

Mission - Provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

Enrollment - Nearly 2,200 students attend our eight schools: four elementary schools with grades preK-3, two intermediate schools with grades 4-6, one middle school with grades 7-8, and a high school with grades 9-12. Newly enrolled secondary school students will be given the opportunity to have a student sponsor, who will assist the new enrollee in acclimating to the school setting.

Accreditation - All schools are accredited by AdvancED, an organization dedicated to "Advancing Excellence in Education Worldwide."

Long-Range Construction Plan - We expect to change from the current eight schools to five schools. Construction is slated to include three elementary schools, serving 635 students each, on the Kingsolver, Macdonald and Van Voorhis school sites, and a middle school, for 550 students, at the Pierce site.

Customer Ratings - DoDEA parents and students give high ratings to our schools. Overall, 74% of sponsors and 72% of students are satisfied with DoDEA schools, according to the latest Customer Satisfaction Survey. Sponsors and students are almost equally satisfied with their specific school, with 75% of sponsors and 72% of students rating their school with an A or B. Nationally, 62% of parents rated their child's school with an A or B.

Parent-Teacher Conferences - We believe that involved parents at all levels of a child's education will increase the chances for academic success. Parent-teacher conferences may occur throughout the school year at the request of a parent or school staff member. We highly encourage on-going communications between parents and teachers.

Standardized Tests - Many students score significantly higher than the national norm on standardized tests. On the 2012 TerraNova test, 96% of the FKCS grade level content area scores -- reading, language, math, science, and social studies -- were at or above the national average. (National average is 50th median national percentile.) On the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress, DoDEA students ranked eighth overall, and minority students ranked first. Based on standardized test outcomes, the DoDEA school system is considered one of the best in the nation.

Graduate Success - Our high school boasts a 97% graduation rate, with 62% bound for a four-year college, 19% enrolling in a two-year college, trade, or technical school, 11% work, and 8% military. In school year 2011-12, 38 of the 75 seniors received offers of scholarships totaling \$3.5 million. Thirty-one seniors will benefit from their parents' GI-Bill for financial support totaling more than \$920,000.

Report Card - Reports on all our schools are available via the DoDEA Web site at www.dodea.edu/datacenter/research/reportCard.cfm

Calendar - To facilitate teaching and learning, our schools operate on a single academic year calendar. The calendar has four instructional quarters, separated by one or two week-long breaks. The summer break is approximately nine weeks in length. The first semester ends Dec. 20, thus those students PCSing during this period will have earned .5 credits for each class, effectively easing the transition to their new school.

Funding - We are well funded. Our per pupil spending far exceeds both the surrounding community and the U.S. average.

Staffing - We are well staffed. Our pupil-teacher ratios are approx. 18-1 for kindergarten through third grade, 23-1 for fourth through sixth grade and, for the two secondary schools, 20-1 on average. Over 90 percent of our teachers hold a master's degree.

Employment Preference – We follow the DoD rules for military spouse preference as well as veteran's preference.

Special Education - We provide an appropriate education for all students. Some students have special needs that cannot be met exclusively through the regular education curriculum. All children ages three through 21 with special education needs are identified, evaluated, and served through the school system. Related services, such as speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and special transportation, are made available to special education students who require such assistance.

Specialists - Most schools have full-time specialists in Art, Education Technology, Media Information, and Physical Education. At each school, guidance counselors work with and advise students throughout the year. Also at every school, nursing services are available to provide professional health care to students.

TQE - We employ the process of Total Quality Education, which results in growth and improvement using data, stakeholder involvement, and consensus building.

Technology - Our schools are fully supported by significant hardware, software, and technology staff at both the district and the school levels. Each school has a high-speed network that enables computer users to access programs and files on servers and to share devices, such as laser printers. Every school has a computer lab, and the larger schools have two labs. The computer to student ratio is 1 to 2. School computers have broadband Internet access. All students at Fort Knox High School have been issued laptops.

In addition, every school has a digital network that brings Kentucky Educational Television programs into the classroom. All schools have closed circuit and cable television programs. For instruction, every school has numerous TVs, VCRs, DVD players, SMARTboards/whiteboards, and projectors. Macdonald School's fifth and sixth graders use the Nook reader. Wi-Fi is available, and media centers are becoming areas for students to check out electronically the textbooks or any other books they need.

Athletics - Boys and girls can participate in a full program of athletics: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling. Athletic programs are competitive, with wrestling, weight lifting, cross-country, and track state championship awards highlighting an extensive trophy case. More information may be found by going to the Fort Knox High School Web site.



Fort Knox High School - Opened in August 2009, the school replaced a 1958 building. The school offers a comprehensive program through a wide variety of courses, including Advanced Placement, Career Technical Education, Foreign languages (Chinese and Spanish), Fine Arts, and Career Practicum. The school makes accommodations for qualified students who desire to take college level classes. The high school, in partnership with the University of Louisville, offers college level courses for one-third the cost of a regular college class. More than 34 percent of Fort Knox's high school students take JROTC – an award-winning program that has been named an honor unit with distinction for decades.

Interstate Compact - We participate in the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children. Details at www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/collaborate.cfm?collId=compact

Board of Education - Our board is elected by and represents the parents and guardians of students enrolled in the Fort Knox schools. The five-member board advises the superintendent on matters ranging from curricular to extra-curricular and from policies to programs. Monthly board meetings are open to the community, and public participation is encouraged. The meeting schedule and agenda are published in *The Gold Standard* newspaper. Meetings are videotaped and then telecast on Fort Knox's TV Channel 98.