Above the Bar
Driving Excellence & Accelerating Student Growth at Kendall Elementary School

College & career theme
Proven, world-renowned instructional approaches
Social-emotional learning & support for all students
Embedded parent support & involvement
Afterschool enrichment included
Extended schedule & calendar increases instructional time & minimizes learning loss
UNIQUE PROGRAMS TO DRIVE EXCELLENCE & STUDENT GROWTH

Academics: The “Above the Bar” school will combine innovative aspects of curriculum and instruction:

⇒ Project-based learning, as well as an enriched learning experiences through a Schoolwide Enrichment Model. A “Young Scholars” program provides differentiated language arts instruction for students identified for acceleration, while the Gifted & Talented program provides advanced, conceptually challenging content for students in Grades 3-5.
⇒ An extended block for additional enrichment opportunities.
⇒ An integrated language arts program, focused on a balance of reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing. Teachers use components such as guided reading and writing, with a differentiated workshop model and explicit skills instruction focused on content literacy through Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA).
⇒ Singapore Math, a renowned system that promotes deeper understanding of numbers and math concepts, with a focus on applying math to real life problems. It is based on Singapore’s national math system, where students repeatedly rank at or near the top on international math exams.
⇒ An integrated visual and performing arts program using the Kodály Method approach to music education. All students will participate in either strings, band or vocal instruction.
⇒ A focus on health and wellness through participation in the Presidential Youth Fitness Program, a national fitness education and assessment program.

Social and Emotional Support Services: Addressing the social and emotional needs of children improves academic performance and overall social functioning.

The proposed program will include support for all students, including RULER, an evidence-based approach to social and emotional learning, developed at Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. RULER supports students, educators and families in understanding the value of emotions, building the skills of emotional intelligence, and creating and maintaining positive climates at school and home.

Family and Children’s Agency (FCA), a leading community-based provider, will offer critically important wraparound social and emotional support services to all Kendall students. FCA will provide professional counseling and support, including guidance and support to parents, and consultation with faculty when requested.
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Family Style Dining will enhance the lunch experience, reinforcing social and emotional goals. An adult role model will sit at each table to promote healthy eating, conversation and to build community. Shared roles and responsibilities promote student leadership and character development.

Parent Involvement: The school model will work with parents to make sure they have the knowledge and skills to support classroom learning, and to take an active role in extending school learning into the home. Six areas of parent involvement and family support will be emphasized:

⇒ Parenting: Assisting families with parenting skills, family support, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions to support learning at each age level.
⇒ Communicating: Communicating with families about school programs and student progress. Creating two-way communication channels between school and home.
⇒ Volunteering: Improving recruitment, training, activities and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audiences. Enabling educators to work with volunteers who support students and the school.
⇒ Learning at Home: Involving families with their children in academic learning at home, including homework, goal setting and other curriculum-related activities. Encouraging teachers to design homework that enables students to share and discuss interesting tasks.
⇒ Decision making: Including families as participants in school decisions, governance and advocacy through the School Governance Council, or improvement teams, committees and parent organizations.
⇒ Community Collaboration: Coordinating community resources and services for families, students, and the school.

Learning and Leadership: Teachers and leaders will take an active role in their own learning, including participation in professional learning communities dedicated to improving the social, emotional and academic success of each child. Teachers will share their expertise through lesson study, data sharing and instructional design.

In addition to daily team planning, teachers will also be provided with a total of 10 days of professional learning relevant to program implementation.
Research has shown that increasing instructional time by approximately 90 minutes a day results in significant gains for students. The length of the student school day will be 8 hours, which includes afterschool enrichment for all students provided by After the Bell and the Carver Foundation.

To reduce summer learning loss, the Kendall Elementary “Above the Bar” school will also follow an extended school year model, with a total of 187 student days over four sessions.

Reduced or no cost childcare options, aligned to the school calendar, will be in place to accommodate working parents and teachers.

For more information, contact:

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