

**January 11, 2016**

**Dear Freshmen Parent(s) or Guardians:**

Kennedy Catholic High School will host our Freshmen Retreat February 25-27, 2016. The Freshmen Retreat will be held from the late afternoon of Thursday, February 25 through late morning on Saturday, February 27. Most of the retreat will take place at Kennedy Catholic, but some events will occur outside of school.

Our Campus Ministry Vision Statement is: *Rooted in the Catholic tradition and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Kennedy Catholic's Campus Ministry invites every person in the Kennedy Catholic community (students, parents, staff, administration, and alumni) into an ever-growing, continually maturing relationship with Jesus Christ. We do this through prayer, community, formation, and service.*

**Because we feel strongly that this Freshmen Retreat touches on our mission to build students' relationships with Jesus Christ through prayer, community, formation, and service all freshmen students (of all faiths) are required to participate. Please do not schedule any activities or appointments that conflict with the freshmen retreat times.** If you foresee any conflicts, please contact Ms. Harrington at 206-957-9756 or [harringtonk@kennedyhs.org](mailto:harringtonk@kennedyhs.org).

The retreat schedule is as follows:

- **Thursday, February 25 (5pm - 9:30pm):** School dismissal is 12 noon; your student should return to Kennedy Catholic's Main Gym by 5pm. Please be sure your student has eaten dinner before arriving. S/he will not stay overnight that evening. S/he should be picked up at the gym entrance at 9:30pm.
- **Friday, February 26 (8am - overnight):** Students should report to Kennedy Catholic's Main Gym before 8am. **Freshmen will be staying overnight at Kennedy Catholic on Friday night** and will be supervised by student leaders and faculty/staff.
- **Saturday, February 27 (11am dismissal):** Parents arrive at 10:15am for closing ceremony (**this is a surprise for your student**). Students will be dismissed at 11am (more details below).

Under the guidance of teachers and staff, the retreat will be implemented by junior and senior leaders selected by faculty (80 students). Freshmen will be assigned to a small group of 5-7 to be led by two of these junior/senior leaders.

All freshmen should bring the following on **Thursday, February 25.**

- Snacks to share
- Water bottle

All freshmen must bring the following on **Friday, February 26.**

- Snacks to share
- Sack lunch for Friday (cafeteria will not be open) and water bottle
- Air mattress/sleeping pad as we will be sleeping in classrooms
- Sleeping bag, pillow, and/or blankets
- 2 changes of clothes (one will be for after service if students get dirty/wet), warm sweater or sweatshirt
- Toiletries and deodorant (no showers)
- Rain jacket, warm clothes, and sturdy shoes for outdoor activities

All freshmen will be dismissed AFTER the **surprise** closing ceremony on **Saturday February 27.**

- At least one parent/guardian should be in the gym by 10:15am on Saturday February 27.
- The closing ceremony should be a **surprise** to your student. Please do not tell your son/daughter.
- The closing ceremony will conclude around 11am.

The freshmen will be traveling for a community service project by bus on Friday, February 26. Every student received a permission form in Religion. **Please make sure that allergies are listed especially FOOD.** Completed permission forms will need to be returned to your student's religion teacher before Friday, February 5, 2016. If you have any questions about transportation or permission forms, please contact Ms. Harrington at 206-957-9756 or [harringtonk@kennedyhs.org](mailto:harringtonk@kennedyhs.org).

We truly believe that this retreat will be the most important spiritual experience for your freshmen student and could impact his/her remaining high school years and beyond. We encourage all parents to support them as they prepare for this retreat. Please pray for our success!

If have any questions, do not hesitate to call. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

*Kaylee Deatherage and Biruk Araya (Student Retreat Captains)*

*Campus Ministry Team: Ms. Harrington, Ms. Farrell, Mr. Patulot, Mr. Ralston, Ms. Ettensohn, Mr. Prato, Mrs. Bradish, Mrs. Burns and Fr. Dolejsi  
Kennedy Catholic Faculty, Alumni, and Staff*

***Please return the attached permission forms to your student's religion teacher by Friday, February 5, 2016.***