

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.

KY 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 - More than 2,300 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."

Five-Year Construction Plan - We plan to build three elementary schools serving 800 students each. The new schools would replace our existing elementary schools.

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. Our schools have scheduled parent-teacher conference times and open houses. Parent-teacher conferences may also 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.

NAEP Test - Our students score significantly higher than the national norm on standardized tests. The National Assessment of Educational Progress is a standardized test in which approximately 45 states participate. We rank 8th overall with our minority students ranking 1st overall. Our standardized test outcomes – the criteria used to measure a school or school district's standing – lead to the conclusion we are one of the best school districts in the nation.

TerraNova Test - On this norm-referenced test, 100% of our grade level scores -- which include grade 3-11 scores for all tested content areas -- were at or above the national average (50th percentile).

Graduate Success - Our high school boasts a 97% graduation rate, with 71% college-bound, 18% special or technical school, 5% work, and 6% military. In school year 2009-10, nearly half of seniors received offers of scholarships totaling more than \$4.5 million.

Report Card - Reports on all our schools are available via the DoDEA Web site at http://www.dodea.edu/pressroom/releasesDisplay.cfm?prId=20100106_2

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 around Dec. 20, thus those students PCSing during this time frame will have earned .5 credits for 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% of our teachers hold a master's degree.

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. 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.

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 2008, the new high school offers a comprehensive program through a wide variety of courses, including Advanced Placement, Professional Technical Studies, Foreign languages (Chinese, Spanish, and German), Fine Arts, and Career Practicum. The school makes accommodations for qualified students who desire to take college level classes. This dual enrollment feature allows students to earn both college and school credit concomitantly. The school also features Encore, a program that provides students time to receive additional instructional help. The high school also has an award-winning JROTC program. The program has been named an honor unit with distinction for decades. More than 34% of FKHS students take JROTC.

Interstate Compact - We participate in the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children. Details at www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/2008_interstatecompact.html

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 *Turret*, and the meetings are telecast on Fort Knox's TV Channel 98.

FKCS Web - Our site includes the school year calendar, key programs and services, policies, immunization requirements, and much more. Visit www.am.dodea.edu/knox/fkcsco

