

Special Education for Students in Grades 9 – 12



We are all born with great potential.
Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?



“Our kids face more challenges than most others, but you never give up on them, even though progress may be slow and the road bumpy at times. It takes a special team of teachers and staff who work very hard every day.”

–Parent of student

Mission

At Kennedy Krieger School: Greenspring Campus High School, our mission is to empower students with diverse abilities to learn and develop lifelong skills, and to unlock their individual potential by providing a safe and nurturing educational environment staffed by highly skilled, collaborative, and dedicated professionals working in partnership with the home, workplace, and community.

Overview

The Kennedy Krieger High School is a nonpublic special education day program approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. We offer a range of educational and therapeutic services for students with a spectrum of special needs, ranging from mild to severe. Students are typically referred and funded by their local school system; however, privately placed out-of-state and international students can also be enrolled. High school students can work toward earning a Maryland State Diploma or a Certificate of Completion. Students can also earn one or more industry-based certifications.

Our programs emphasize the development of lifelong skills through an active approach to learning, including participation in projects and work-based learning opportunities. At Kennedy Krieger High School, our students thrive in our intimate and structured environment. We maintain a low student-to-teacher ratio, which allows us to implement individualized education programs (IEPs) that meet the diverse needs of our students while offering the highest quality education. Our parents and families play a primary role in our team approach, which is a key component of all Kennedy Krieger School Programs and our students' success.



Who We Serve

Kennedy Krieger High School provides education and related services for students in grades 9 – 12 with a wide range of disabilities, including autism, emotional disability, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, and traumatic brain injury.



Our Approach

Kennedy Krieger School Programs are organized around professional learning communities (PLCs), based on shared decision making by those working closest with the students each day, resulting in the creation of a vibrant and energized learning environment. These communities are structured to allow students to achieve their goals in the most appropriate educational setting possible. Our community design incorporates specialized instruction, classroom structure, and behavioral interventions. Students may transition between communities as their developmental needs change. Community assignments are based on a team review of the academic, social, and behavioral needs of each student.



We maintain a strong interdisciplinary team approach within and across communities, allowing for planning at the programmatic and individual student levels. Interdisciplinary teams have regularly scheduled meetings to monitor progress and make appropriate modifications to ensure each student's success.

Our Team

Our team includes highly trained special educators, curriculum specialists, related service providers, and paraprofessional staff who receive ongoing training in evidence-based practices, including instruction in the use of current technologies in the learning environment. Full-time related service providers are onsite daily to ensure comprehensive programming and collaboration with each student's educational team. Services provided may include:

- Art and music therapy
- Assistive technology
- Audiology
- Behavioral supports
- Counseling and mental health services
- Nursing
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Special education
- Speech-language pathology

Instructional Program

Our curriculum focuses on building essential skills through access to standards and curricula identified by the Maryland State Department of Education. In addition, instruction in art, music, physical education and fitness, health, life and social skills, career exploration and development, and vocational skills round out the course of study.

The eleven-month program is grounded in evidence-based methods that are supported by research and utilize the principles of Universal Design for Learning, along with accommodations, modifications, adaptations, and supplementary supports carefully chosen to meet each student's individual needs. Classrooms are well equipped with interactive technologies, including smart boards and iPads that support instruction. For those pursuing a high school diploma, we offer full implementation of the common core curriculum required for course completion.



All students participate in industry training within specially designed classrooms and student-run businesses, as well as work-based learning within the school and with business partners in the community. Instruction through industry training and work-based learning enables students to learn about their career interests in authentic settings. Instruction is based on a school-to-work model that prepares students with disabilities to meet the workplace challenges of the 21st century. Our program provides a dynamic high school experience that enables a complete and seamless transition from school to the next step in life, whether that's training, supported or competitive employment, or higher education.

Preparation for Employment

Kennedy Krieger High School offers students a chance to prepare for entry-level jobs in one of five career clusters:

- Information Technology
- Horticulture
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Manufacturing and Construction
- Retail and Consumer Services



In their first year, students complete an industry survey course exploring aspects of each industry. Students learn what types of jobs are available and what skills are needed to pursue opportunities in these fields. During the survey course, each student's abilities and interests are determined through observation, as well as formal and informal assessment.

After completion of the survey course, the team, parents, and students follow guidelines to select an industry "major," which will guide each student's career education at Kennedy Krieger High School. These majors may change during a student's high school career, depending on student interest, parental input, and school team decision. Each cluster involves a student-run business that provides experience for students in all aspects of work in their cluster major.

These majors include:

Information Technology (IT): Students in IT usually concentrate on one of two areas: troubleshooting and maintenance of computer hardware, or the use of office-based computer applications. They also focus on tasks related to the production and distribution of desktop publishing. The cluster operates two school-based businesses—Paper Trails offers graphic design services to Kennedy Krieger Institute departments and other organizations, and Bulldog Systems offers technical assistance to staff and students.

Horticulture: Students in Horticulture learn the skills and requirements of careers related to floriculture and landscaping. Students work in a classroom setting or in designated areas on campus to support a greenhouse. Instruction includes safety, propagation of horticulture plants, and maintenance of seasonal crops.



Hospitality and Tourism: Students in this major prepare for jobs in the hospitality and food service industry. Students learn appropriate kitchen hygiene and how to manage tasks such as inventories, dishwashing, and food preparation. Students in this cluster work in the school café, Café James, which serves light breakfast and lunch fare daily to Kennedy Krieger employees, students, and guests. Students operate restaurant equipment and work with customers, taking orders, preparing food, operating the cash register, and arranging deliveries.

Manufacturing and Construction: Students in this major learn a wide variety of tasks related to building and maintenance, preparing them for careers in building trades such as carpentry, painting, drywall hanging, roofing, and mechanics. Students may work in Bulldog Enterprises, a school-based business in which students complete furniture construction or repairs to order, and work on larger products such as gazebos and ticket booths.



Retail and Consumer Services: Students in Retail and Consumer Services prepare for careers in stores, malls, and supermarkets, as well as human services professions. Students are prepared for jobs in consumer services, stock and inventory management, personnel management, data entry, marketing, and sales. Job skills needed for success in Retail and Consumer Services are wide-ranging. To meet those varied skills, the school has established three student-run retail and consumer businesses. At the credit union, students master data entry, accounts payable and receivable, and basic bookkeeping. Students working in the school store have the opportunity to choose products, maintain inventories, and work with vendors, in addition to

handling customer requests and making sales. Working in the upscale M&M Boutique teaches students how to greet customers and help them find the items they want, make sales, and create displays.



Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Kennedy Krieger High School offers an array of job experiences outside the classroom.

Partnering with over 40 regional businesses, the school provides students with opportunities to use and expand the knowledge and skills they have learned within their industry classrooms in the community.

Through work-based learning, students are offered a number of task-analyzed and progressively independent work placements that offer authentic experience in a job directly related to their chosen industry or interest. Jobs may be on-campus school positions or off-campus internships. These jobs can range from a short-term or introductory placement to a long-term, intensive work experience with formal training.

Before beginning their jobs, all students in the work-based learning program receive a formal orientation and a student work manual that outlines the rules and expectations of the program. Supervision is provided by school staff who work directly with students. The work-based learning staff act as job coaches, though students may eventually work with very limited direct support from school staff.



Assessment of Progress

Effective, timely, and targeted assessment of student progress is critical to our instructional program. Teachers and related service staff maintain ongoing systems for evaluating the progress of each child. Through this dynamic process of continuous assessment, we are able to make decisions about the direction and pace of instruction and the related service supports needed to facilitate progress.

All students participate in mandated state- and district-wide assessments, including the Maryland High School Assessments. When determined by the IEP team, students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may participate



in the alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards. The goal of an alternate assessment is to ensure that students achieve increasingly higher academic outcomes and leave high school ready for post-secondary options.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

For many students, academic achievement may be compromised by behavioral challenges and the need for environmental support. We provide a continuum of positive behavioral supports that encourage students to maintain their focus on cooperation, completion of tasks, and appropriate social interactions. Board-certified behavior analysts oversee a highly structured school-wide behavior

management system with predictable routines, rewards, and consequences.

This system includes the use of a daily point sheet or log to monitor progress with individual target behaviors, as well as universal expectations for cooperative and productive behavior.

When needed, functional behavior assessment (FBA) and analysis is conducted to develop an individualized behavior intervention plan (BIP). Plans focus on the development of adaptive

skills that replace problem behaviors. Crisis intervention is available to students who experience behavioral difficulties and need help returning to instruction or work-based learning activities. All school staff receive extensive training annually in positive behavior management techniques to provide support for students.



Transition Planning

Students make many transitions throughout their education, from elementary to middle grades, from middle to high school, and from high school to post-secondary and post-school experiences. Transition planning begins as soon as the student enters Kennedy Krieger High School.

Transition teams, including school staff, parents, students (if appropriate), and representatives from workplace and community support agencies, approach each student's IEP with a focus on where the student is heading and the skills he or she will need to be successful.





Admission and Contact Information

Tours of the Kennedy Krieger High School are conducted by appointment.

For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions, Compliance, and Transition (ACT):

Kennedy Krieger School: **Greenspring Campus High School**
3825 Greenspring Ave
Baltimore, Maryland 21211
Main: **443-923-7800**
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kennedykrieger.org/special-education